32 Adam Geese (4)

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24th OCTOBER, 1981

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One cap wonder

IT must disturb Aston Villa's goalkeeper Jimmy Rimmer to hear talk of Lukic, Fox and Bailey for the England jersey.

Rimmer has been producing the impossible for Villa since Ron Saunders captured his services for just £70,000 in 1977.

Yet the former Manchester United and Arsenal goalkeeper, who spent a brief loan period at Swansea, has won only one England cap — and that a shared goalkeeping duty with Joe Corrigan against Italy in New York on May 28, 1976.

Stupendous feats of agility between the posts at Villa have gone totally unrecognised by the England management.

No wonder he feels sick about the lack of opportunity he has been afforded at international level.

It takes a rather special feat for Liverpool's Kop to applaud a player in an opposing team. They went into raptures when only Rimmer seemed to be standing between Liverpool and victory in a League game at Anfield last month.

SHOOT! view!

When Rimmer came out for the second-half and went to The Kop end, they applauded him to a man for his astonishing first-half performance. And every breathtaking save after the break received their cheers even though their team were being held to a 0-0 draw.

Sadly, Jimmy Rimmer is destined to go down in the soccer history books as a one-cap wonder. Records will never properly show the massive contribution he has made to the teams he has played with.

Quality clubs demand quality goalkeepers, so it is no surprise to see that Rimmer has played for Manchester United, Arsenal and Villa.

Poor old Jimmy has not always received the praise at club level.

If asked to name the heroes of Aston Villa's Championship winning team of 1980-81, most fans would go for Peter Withe, Gary Shaw, Tony Morley, Gordon Cowans and Dennis Mortimer.

"Oh, and Jimmy Rimmer," is as much as the Villa goalkeeper expects these days.

England's abundance of goalkeeping talent has clearly denied him the caps he would have gained had he been born Scottish, Welsh or in another European country.

His talents deserve a wider audience. Unfortunately he will never gain the world wide recognition that Ray Clemence and Peter Shilton, and Gordon Banks before them, have enjoyed.

No professional player deserves more sympathy than Jimmy Rimmer, one of the best goalkeepers to grace the First Division since the War.

ENGLAND UNDER GREENWOOD

	Home					Away					Total				
P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A
21	12	6	3	32	14	22	12	3	7	41	26	43	24	9	10	73	40

ARE THE YOUNGSTERS GOOD ENOUGH?

RON Greenwood took over from Don Revie in the Autumn of 1977 and since then England have barely progressed from the dark days under the one-time manager of Leeds United.

They qualified for the Finals of the 1980 European Championship, but once there failed to show the form that had given England fans hope.

Many supporters say that it was hopeless to try to win the 1982 World Cup with the players who flopped in the European Championship.

Realistically, England never had a chance of being World Champions again, although qualifying for Spain did not look beyond them.

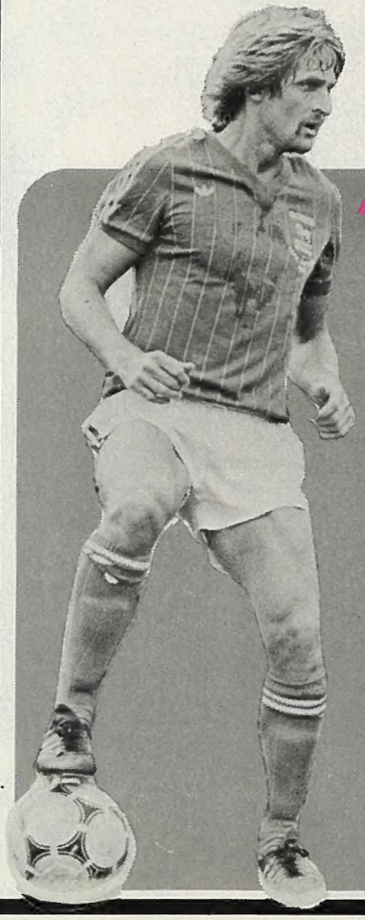
The rot started to set in last Spring with the 2-1 home defeat by Spain, England's first Wembley defeat under Greenwood. Since then England have lost two more home games, against Brazil and Scotland; the only bright spot being the victory in Hungary.

Those who believe the estalished stars should be discarded must come up with constructive alternatives. Here are the England teams that lined up against Norway at full and Under-21 level in September:

CLEMENCE	BAILEY
NEAL	FENWICK
MILLS (M)	GIBSON
THOMPSON (P)	MACKENZIE
OSMAN	DUXBURY
ROBSON	CATON
KEEGAN	MILLS (G)
FRANCIS	FASHANU
MARINER	THOMPSON (G)
HODDLE	HEATH
McDERMOTT	PROCTOR
SUBS: BARNES,	SUBS: OWEN,
WITHE	MORAN

It is arguable that the juniors' 0-0 draw with Norway — and

Under-21 star Adrian Heath



'League gates won't be hit' SAYS FRANS THIJSSEN

ENGLAND'S possible absence from next summer's World Cup Finals won't make much difference to gates in English soccer. That's the view of Dutch star Frans Thijssen, who also looks like missing out on the Finals.

As the World Cup qualifying tournament reaches its climax, both England and Holland look likely absentees from Spain. The fierce debate and wringing of hands in England at the disastrous results is predictable.

"But the same won't be happening in Holland," says Thijssen. The Ipswich midfielder admits: "I would love to go to the Finals, but it will be very difficult for Holland now.

"People in Holland, too, will be disappointed. But no one in Holland believes gates will be affected. I don't think gates at English League games will be influenced by England's absence from the Finals.

"In 1974 and 1978, Holland finished runners-up in the World Cup Finals. Yet far from increasing interest through Holland, gates fell, and fell drastically.

"People stopped going to football because there were other things to do, not because Holland didn't have a successful national side. You cannot do much better than reach two World Cup Finals in succession.

"If gates drop in a country which achieves that much, it proves that people are not affected either way by World Cup results. If they want to go to League matches, they will continue to do so, whether the

England's Under-21 team could only manage a goalless draw in Norway.

Defeat in Switzerland — and the start of the big slide.

Pick your England team to play Hungary

ENGLAND versus Hungary . . . it could be the game that decides England's World Cup future . . . or one of the great non-events of Wembley's history. Most people believe England will already be out of the reckoning by November 18th, when Hungary visit Wembley. On the other hand, fate may be in England's favour thanks to a little help from Norway or Switzerland.

Disaster

English international football is just about at its lowest ebb after the defeat in Norway. It wasn't just a defeat: it was a disaster.

That, however, is in the past. Nothing can change the result that still sends a chill down Ron Greenwood's spine — Norway 2, England 1.

But what do you, the fans, think should happen? We want to know. Should many of the present team be discarded, come what may? Should Ron Greenwood go, even if England qualify? Or, in the event of a minor miracle, should he stay? Should Greenwood or his successor stay with the players who have failed? If so, who do you think should play?

We want to know what you, the real fans, think. We want to know the team you believe should face Hungary. A team that can win, even if only to collect two consolation points.

It's important that the feelings of so many supporters who really care about the game are known. To find them, we'd like you to fill in the coupon on the right and send it to us to arrive not later than Wednesday, October 28th.

When we have collated all the information we shall publish the results of what will be one of the most comprehensive soccer surveys. IT WILL DETERMINE THE VIEWS OF THOUSANDS OF ENGLAND SUPPORTERS — AND OTHERS WHO CARE ABOUT THE NATIONAL TEAM.

Norway's Under-21's really were part-timers, with no European professionals to boost their ranks — was even worse than the seniors' defeat.

The cream of young England . . . players who, hopefully, will one day graduate to the full team . . . couldn't score against the Norwegian Under-21 side.

How many of the England Under-21 team are ready or worthy of a step up? Is Gary Bailey or John Lukic ready to take over from Ray Clemence or Peter Shilton? Russell Osman took some stick after Oslo, and Dave Watson has his critics.

Yet would either Tommy Caton or Mike Duxbury be better?

England's midfield of Bryan Robson, Glenn Hoddle and Terry McDermott never quite dominated as we hoped. On the other hand, would Adrian Heath, Mark Proctor or Steve Mackenzie have made much difference?

Trevor Francis again was frustrating; Paul Mariner has had a goal-drought while Kevin Keegan buzzed but didn't sting.

If you were Ron Greenwood, would you drop any of these in favour of Gary Mills, Justin Fashanu or Garry Thompson?

You never know what a player can do until he's been tried, you may say. Yet surely a player has to show he can do a job at Under-21 level before being promoted to the full side.

There are others who didn't play in Norway. Trevor Brooking and Steve Coppell were injured. Youngsters such as Sammy Lee, Mark Smith, Billy Gilbert and Steve McCall weren't on duty for the juniors.

Forward

Aston Villa fans will no doubt push forward Kenny Swain, Dennis Mortimer and Gary Shaw . . . but when you are England's manager you mustn't let your heart rule your head.

We believe Ron Greenwood's cupboard is relatively bare. But we also believe it contains enough for England to be doing better than they are.

So put on your thinking caps and let us know who you would like to see wearing the white shirts of England against Hungary in mid-November.

Trevor Francis. Should he keep his place?

"I feel sorry for players like Kevin Keegan and other senior England men," he says. "They may not have another chance and it has to be every player's ambition to play in the World Cup Finals.

"It will be a shame for England and Holland if they don't qualify. But to be realistic, I cannot see how it will damage the game."

national side is successful or not. If they don't because they have other interests, even winning the World Cup won't bring them back."

Thijssen admits its the players who will lose most.

MY ENGLAND TEAM TO FACE HUNGARY

1.....

2.....

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8.....

9.....

10.....

11.....

CAPTAIN.....

SHOULD RON GREENWOOD RESIGN, IF ENGLAND DON'T QUALIFY FOR THE WORLD CUP FINALS? YES/NO

IF ENGLAND QUALIFY, SHOULD GREENWOOD STAY ON? YES/NO

WHO WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE AS THE NEXT ENGLAND MANAGER?

.....

YOUR NAME .....

ADDRESS.....

.....

.....AGE.....

Send to:— SHOOT/ENGLAND TEAM, ROOM 2120, KING'S REACH TOWER, STAMFORD STREET, LONDON SE1 9LS.

JACK RULES OK

JACKIE Charlton and Big Jim Holton (above) both know something about playing at centre-half. So how do they get on in training now that Jack is Sheffield Wednesday boss and Jim is the number five? Says Jim: "Although we get on like a house on fire, we have had our disagreements about how the centre-half position should be played. But I've got to admit Jack gets the better of me. All he has to say is 'Look, son, I've got a World Cup medal. I know what I'm talking about'."

Hard-man Ron praises Kevin

RON SAUNDERS is hard to please, so when he pays a player a compliment he has earnt it.

"Kevin Keegan," says the Aston Villa boss, "is the best example of a player making the most of what he has. Whether you play with him or against him you soon realise that Kevin plays to his strengths for the full 90 minutes. He's working at his game all the time.

"The truly great players are the ones who managers know how they will play before the game. Players who play to their full potential in every match — and that's Keegan."

THE International Soccer Correspondence Club, established a year ago, is forging friendships between football supporters all over the world.

Founder member John Gavan, who runs the club from his home at 75 Woodlands Crescent, Bothwell, Glasgow, says the aim is to create as many international friendships as possible through the medium of soccer.

EVERTON boss Howard Kendall reckons he has signed one of the outstanding prospects in British schoolboy football — 14-year-old Jimmy Page, a midfield starlet with Newcastle Boys Under-14 side and Northumberland County Boys. Everton beat off opposition from Manchester United, Arsenal and West Brom to land Page and youth team coach Ray Minshull says: "We've been watching him for about 18 months — and so have the other top clubs. He has a lot of skill and is a terrific prospect."

Wembley calls

AN exciting new competition for schoolchildren was launched at Tottenham Hotspur.

It is the Sun/F.A./Pepsi Cola SuperSkills competition.

Open to schoolboys in two age groups — Under 12 and Under 16. Each school will be able to nominate one boy who has passed a series of ball skill tests under the F.A./ESFA SuperSkills Gold Award scheme.

The SuperSkills reaches its climax at the two F.A. Cup Semi-Finals when 40 children will be competing for eight Wembley places.

The successful eight will display their skills in front of 100,000 spectators at Wembley prior to the 1982 F.A. Cup Final.

ALLEN'S 'SOFTLY SOFTLY' TOUCH

CYRILLE REGIS has high hopes that the return to the manager's chair at The Hawthorns of the man who first spotted him in non-League football, Ronnie Allen, can see him develop into an England centre-forward.

For Allen has made it clear that he favours the softly softly approach with the highly talented but often moody Regis. Allen, a former Albion and England centre-forward, says he will make Regis a regular international in a year.

The Debt

And Regis is already responding well. He says: "Nobody likes to be shouted at but sometimes a rollicking is called for. Sometimes I would have preferred it if Ron Atkinson had taken people to one side and not done it in full view of everyone.

"The new boss has his own way. He likes to do things without blowing his top."

Regis is also quick to point out the debt he owes Allen, who plucked him from the obscurity of the Isthmian League for a bargain basement £5,000 fee.

He admitted: "I will always be grateful to the boss for recognising the potential in me. I hope that this season I will be able to perform for him more consistently.

"Except for the season when I had my cartilage out, I've scored around 17 or 18 goals a season but I think I can improve on that and get past the 20 mark."

ALLY MacLEOD, sacked by Motherwell at the start of the season after five successive defeats in the League Cup, may become team manager of Portuguese club Vittoria Setubal.

The Portuguese side have noted that the former Scotland supremo is currently out of a job and have expressed a definite interest in talking to MacLeod about his future.

ERICH SCHAEDLER has returned to Hibs after an absence of four years playing with Dundee. The once-capped full-back went to Dens Park in an exchange deal which involved centre-forward Bobby Hutchinson. Hibs have been after Erich since the start of the season, during which time the player had been in dispute with Dundee, and eventually manager Bertie Auld's £12,500 offer was accepted.

A jewel called Barnes

WATFORD, currently enjoying life in the Second Division promotion race, have unearthed an exciting winger in John Barnes, thanks to a supporter of the Vicarage Road club.

Barnes, aged 17, was operating with Middlesex local League side Sudbury Court last season and was spotted by a fan who contacted Watford.

Barnes played in a few reserve team games last term and was brought into the League team as a substitute in the 1-1 draw with Oldham. Manager Graham Taylor said: "He was like a breath of fresh air."

But better was to come in the 3-1 victory at Chelsea. Barnes made his full League debut and had Taylor purring: "I think we have a jewel there. He has power, pace and balance as well as a good shot."

PRAISE indeed . . . Barnsley boss Norman Hunter, who has played against some great players, says of his £50,000 buy from Brighton Ray McHale: "If there is a better first-time passer of the ball in football today, I have yet to see him. He is terrific."

SOCCER ON THE CHEAP

BRISTOL, home of BBC TV's Eddie Shoestring, is fast becoming the centre of shoestring soccer as well.

Bristol Rovers boss Terry Cooper, looking for extra goal power after his side were relegated from Division Two last year, has found his man without breaking into his tiny transfer budget.

Cooper signed Archie Stephens from Western League Melksham, and the 27-year-old has already made his mark, scoring twice against Burnley and repeating the feat against Reading. He was also on target at Preston.

At Rovers he links up with Paul Randall — who first went to Eastville from another Western League club — and winger Mike Barrett, found playing for Shirehampton in the Somerset Senior League.

Loyal Hodgson signs

MIDDLESBROUGH have made a positive move to check the flow of talent from Ayresome Park.

England Under-21 international centre-forward Dave Hodgson has signed a new four-year contract to give the Boro fans encouragement over the future.

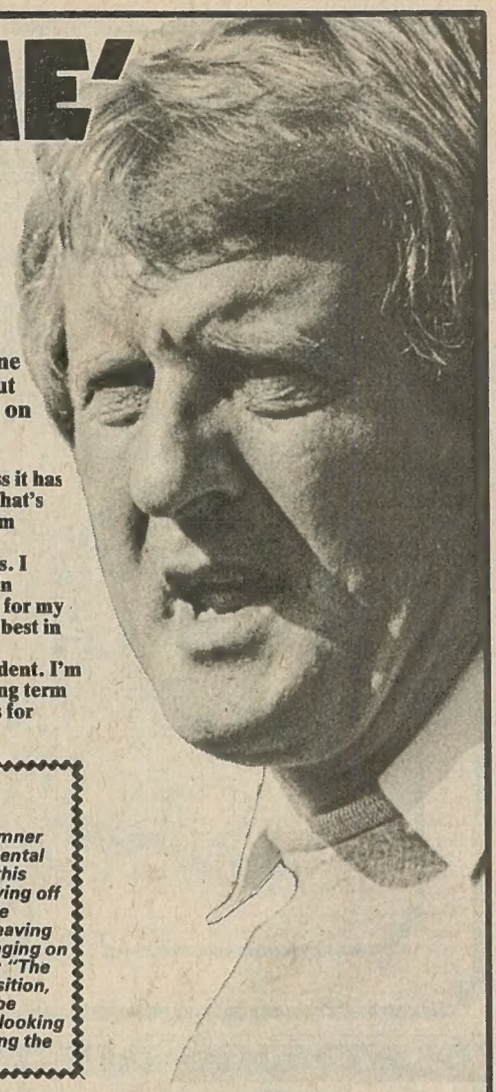
Manager Bobby Murdoch is overjoyed to keep the highly-rated Hodgson. "Hodgson is as good a front man as there is in the game. He could have had his choice of clubs," he says.

"Middlesbrough are determined to hold on to their quality players from now on. We want to lose a nursery-club reputation. We no longer want to be regarded as a breeding ground for the bigger clubs.

"The club has taken a lot of criticism for selling star players, so I hope the Hodgson news cheers them up."

'I NEED TIME' pleads Wolves boss

WOLVES are already amongst the favourites for relegation. Manager John Barnwell concedes his job is on the line. But the single-minded Molineux boss won't change his principles.



"Okay, perhaps I'm in line for the sack," he says. "But I'll continue to put my job on the line and stick by my beliefs.

"No club can flourish unless it has the right internal structure. That's what I'm building here and I'm getting nearer every week.

"I need a further 18 months. I won't get it, although my main concern is not for myself, but for my back-room staff. They're the best in the business.

"I've always been independent. I'm more concerned about the long term than tomorrow. Tomorrow is for frightened men."

United at United

A FRIENDSHIP started at First Division Tottenham seven years ago has certainly proved a blessing for Fourth Division Scunthorpe United.

It was at White Hart Lane where John Duncan, a £150,000 striker from Dundee, made the acquaintance of defender Andy Keeley. They played together at times at first team and reserve team level until Keeley was allowed to leave at the end of the 1976/77 season.

But now the pair are together again at the Old Show Ground after varying performances on the Football League scene.

Player-manager Duncan has signed Keeley on a free transfer from Sheffield United.

4~5~1

DONCASTER boss Billy Bremner has adopted a new experimental formation for away games this season — and so far it is paying off nicely. The aim is to pack the midfield with five players, leaving striker Richard Dawson foraging on his own up front. Says Billy: "The aim is to frustrate the opposition, but we still intend to try to be always positive. We will be looking to push forward quickly along the flanks."

WIZARD BALL WINNER— THAT'S KEVAN

TIGER tackling Kevan Broadhurst is still only 22-years-old. But he is now the longest serving player at Birmingham City.

He's been seven years at St. Andrews and is hoping this season finally sees him established as a regular first teamer.

Manager Jim Smith has handed Broadhurst the role of central midfield anchor and ball winner.

It's a job Kevan performed well when he came into the side towards the end of last season.

Yorkshireman Broadhurst says: "The job of winning the ball is one I like."

He's had his share of ups and downs with City since joining as a midfield man and then operating as a full-back and central defender.

Early last season he almost left at a bargain basement fee for Walsall, where he had spent some time on loan as he recovered from cartilage trouble.

But now he is looking for a regular established key role as City battle against their neighbours Aston Villa and try to emerge from the shadow of the Champions.

SHEFFIELD UNITED ACQUITTED

THE new set-up at Sheffield United, now in the Fourth Division for the first time in their history, must be the reason for the otherwise inexplicable leniency shown by the F.A. after investigating the shameful scenes at Bramall Lane when they lost the final game of last season at home to Walsall.

The referee and several Walsall players were attacked as they left the field and a near riot situation developed as supporters invaded the pitch and were only quelled by a rumour that Swindon had lost at Brentford and would be the ones to go down.

An F.A. Commission has ruled that no charge will be "brought on this occasion" but warning notices to future conduct have had to be displayed around the ground and inserted in their programmes. Let's hope this signals a change in fortune for the club who have slipped from the First to the Fourth in just six traumatic seasons!

Briefly

● *There are dozens of various awards in soccer these days, but none, as yet, for the new craze, the Rubik cube.*

I hear that Wolves' Mel Eves (right) would be a favourite for any competition. With several of his team-mates as witnesses he matched up all the sides in under two and a half minutes — and says he's done it even quicker.

● *There was a most unusual gathering in a Manchester hotel last month. United and City new boys Frank Stapleton and Trevor Francis are staying there until they find houses . . . and former United manager Dave Sexton popped in for a meal. Then singer Johnny Mathis made it a very interesting gang of four.*

● *WHAT have Roy Rogers and Trigger . . . a B17 class 4-6-0 steam locomotive and an elephant standing in for a goalkeeper to do with soccer?*

The fourth edition of The Guinness Book of Soccer Facts and Feats will tell you.

Compiled by Jack Rollin, Soccer Facts and Feats is an invaluable reference book for all football fans.

On sale now, price £6.95.

● *As an incentive to score early goals, West Bromwich Albion's sponsors BSR are offering a £1,000 award for any goal scored by a West Bromwich Albion player within 90 seconds of the match kick off.*

FREE . . . FREE . . . FREE NEXT WEEK! Four more colour PICTURE CARDS for SHOOT'S Top 20 Strikers collection!

ALLISON'S WONDERLAND

FANS don't pay to see managers. It's players who have the terraces chanting and those in seats on their feet. Managers don't score winning goals or make match-saving tackles.

Yet the headlines in the papers next week will be dominated not by the players, but by two managers — Lawrie McMenemy and Malcolm Allison. On another day Southampton v Sporting Lisbon would be an interesting tie, nothing more.

With two of the most extrovert and controversial managers coming face to face, the players will have to take a back seat. McMenemy and Allison will no doubt do their utmost to play down their roles, but at the end of the day victory will be a triumph for the manager as much as his team.

Allison is a different man to the personality who smoked big cigars, wore fedora hats, drank champagne, visited the best night clubs and was rarely out of the news while he was in England.

He's been keeping a low profile in Portugal while taking Sporting to a high position — top of the League, in fact. Allison says he isn't bothered about proving his critics wrong, but there can be no doubt that Southampton's scalp would be very dear to him.

One way or the other, this clash has all the makings of a classic — almost the opposite of Arsenal against Winterslag.

It's becoming boringly popular to say Arsenal are dull — sadly though, few of their fans would put up much of an argument. Winterslag hardly conjure up the sort of magic European competition is famous for.

Aberdeen fully deserved to beat UEFA Cup holders Ipswich in the First Round; now comes the big test. It was easy for The Dons to raise their game against English opposition. Their professionalism will be stretched by the Rumanians Arges Pitesti.

They don't have the glamour of Ipswich; but on the evidence of the holders' knockout, Aberdeen have the skill to go a lot further in the competition. Alex Ferguson will impress upon his men that Arges must be treated in the same way as Ipswich and if they are Aberdeen will surely be in Round Three.

Dundee United's task against the formidable Borussia Moenchengladbach is more difficult. Borussia have a wealth of experience at this level and are particularly dangerous away from home.

So are United on the evidence of their 5-2 win in Monaco, but a repeat performance is too much to hope for.

Beaten UEFA Cup Finalists AZ '67 have a chance for revenge against English opposition in the shape of Liverpool. The Alkmaar side came within a whisker of beating Ipswich thanks to a superb performance in the second leg, but Liverpool are made of sterner stuff.

The European Champions haven't really hit top gear this season, but AZ haven't either and trail behind Ajax.

League Champions Aston Villa are another side struggling to find last season's form and if they play as they have on some occasions in the past few weeks against Dynamo Berlin they'll be out of the European Cup.

There are plenty of easier places to visit than East Germany, even though Villa beat the national team in an August friendly. If Villa can overcome this tough hurdle we can start thinking of them as possible European Champions.

EUROPEAN CUP
AZ '67 v Liverpool
Dynamo Berlin v Aston Villa
CUP-WINNERS' CUP
Dundalk v Spurs
UEFA CUP
Southampton v Sporting Lisbon
Arsenal v Winterslag
Aberdeen v Arges Pitesti
Borussia Moenchengladbach v Dundee United

Aberdeen's tough tackling skipper Willie Miller (left) shuts holders Ipswich out of the UEFA Cup.

Liverpool's Kenny Dalglish tears apart the Finnish Champions Oulun Palloseura in the European Cup First Round.

Longshot

One man delighted with the Cup-Winners' Cup draw is Dundalk manager John McLaughlin. "It's a bit of a long shot, but I hope we come out of the drum against Spurs," he said before the draw.

You'll get good odds on a victory for the Irish club, but it's as well to remember that Dundalk haven't lost at home in Europe since McLaughlin, a former Northern Ireland international, took over at Oriel Park in 1974.

22,000 fans next week at Oriel Park will give in-form Spurs a typical warm Irish welcome . . . and then, probably, watch their team beaten.

THE GOOD BY GEORGE!

LOVING husband, devoted father, tee-totaller, interior decorator, fitness fanatic, semi-recluse.

If you were asked which footballer that description fitted, George Best would be well down on your list, but the George Best of 1981, now aged 35 but looking better than ever, is a very different person to the one who was rarely out of the headlines not too long ago.

He arrived in the U.K. recently to publicise his book "Where Do I Go From Here?", a question he can't answer, but wherever he goes he will go with his wife Angela and son Calum. The three are virtually inseparable.

If watching George at his peak was the ultimate pleasure in soccer, it's just as good to see him over his troubles and enjoying life again.

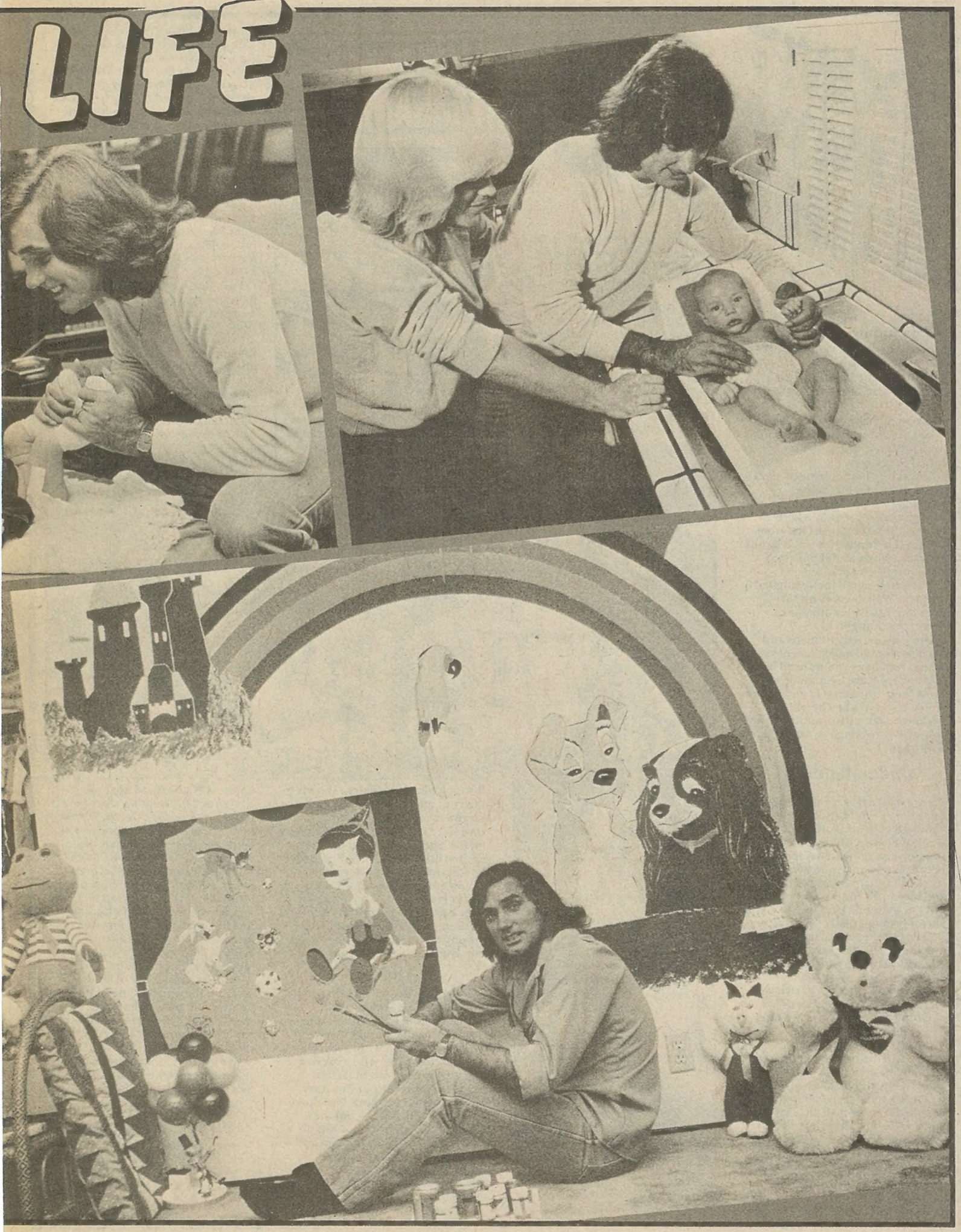
The Bests are based in Los Gatos, near San Jose, where George is player/coach to the Earthquakes.

George decorated Calum's bedroom himself, Disney-style. And when he isn't training or working out in the gym, he's never far from his son. Mind you, Calum even goes training occasionally — giving George a helping hand is San Jose coach Jimmy Gabriel, well-known to British fans.

Gone are the days when George was in a bar or a disco every night. His idea of happiness is to stay in with his family, or maybe go to the occasional movie.

These photos of George will tell you a lot about how he's changed. And his book gives an even deeper insight into the player who, even now, would still be just about the single biggest draw in English football if he decided to make another comeback.

LIFE



'DON'T COMPARE ME WITH FRANCIS'

On the ball with FASHANU

STOP the kissing and cuddling when a goal is scored? I can't wait for it to start after a barren goalscoring spell since signing for Nottingham Forest.

Everything has been marvellous about the move to the City Ground from Norwich — except my shortage of goals.

Once they start flowing again, I don't mind who kisses me, providing it's on the pitch!

How can FIFA legislate fairly against such goings-on? Referees already have enough work without having to worry about policing goalscorers' celebrations.

Fashanu booked for kissing Ian Wallace. Wallace sent-off for receiving Fashanu's affections. Perish the thought.

The Italians, Argentinians and Brazilians could never accept such a ruling. And have you noticed how rugby players are beginning to show their emotions? Even big Bob Willis, England's fast bowling cricketer, was fairly smothered with kisses after routing the Australians last summer.

Understanding

Forest manager Brian Clough has been very understanding about my shortage of goals. Forest spent a week at Bisham Abbey's soccer training centre near Maidenhead before the Spurs game where I worked to sharpen myself mentally and physically for the striking job. But I'm under no pressure from the Forest management.

One point I must clear up — I'm not another Trevor Francis. Those who compare me with the former Forest striker are way off beam. We're totally different in style and technique. Trevor gets goals I wouldn't sniff, and I'll score ones he wouldn't.

It has to be said there's an element of luck about scoring goals from the moment you start at a new club. Steve Archibald responded marvellously to the challenge of First Division football after joining Tottenham from Aberdeen.

So many Scottish players struggle in England, but not Steve. Every striker has a lean patch and Steve is having a few problems at the moment.

My pal Garth Crooks is under a bit of pressure at White Hart Lane, too. Recovered from injury, he reckons he'll have to send in the heavy mob to bump-off Mark Falco if he's to win a regular place after great displays by Mark. But had Falco, whom I've known since Norwich-Spurs youth team battles, failed to grasp his opportunity, he could have been up for transfer. It strikes me the margin between success and failure is that thin.

Clive Allen would agree with that. The Arsenal-Palace transfer fiascos did him no good, but he's battled through his rough patch, showing the courage I detected, when we played together for England Under-21's. A goal against Wrexham on the opening day and another against Blackburn for Q.P.R. prove he is returning to his best form.

Vince Hilaire, my chum at Palace, is also tasting the good life again after a problem period. He tells me he is enjoying himself again and is playing the football which earned him England Under-21 caps.

ABOVE LEFT: Mark Falco (white shirt) has taken his chance at Spurs.

BELOW: No luck. Justin's golden chance on his Forest debut goes astray against Southampton.

Joe Royle

Ability

The great secret of scoring goals is an ability to develop an understanding with your partner up front. Ian Wallace and I feel we've developed a rapport already. He's a proven goalscorer who experienced a difficult period when he first signed for Forest from Coventry.

People tried to knock him down with their criticisms — not the Forest staff I might add — but his hat-trick against Birmingham and goals against Sunderland and Brighton confirm my belief that there aren't many better strikers in the League.

I'm sure I'll develop the understanding with Ian I enjoyed alongside Joe Royle and Kevin Reeves at Norwich.

Big Joe was the most unselfish player I've met. He knew my strengths and fed them. He'd make dummy runs, freeing me from close marking. Kevin, a smaller man, was the perfect foil for my aggression in the box. I'm convinced a tall and short strike partnership can be successful. That's my hope for Ian and I this season.

Settling into a new club is never easy, but Viv Anderson, who runs John Robertson close for joke-telling, has helped me get to know Nottingham and the inhabitants.

I'm still encamped in an hotel but have my eye on a four-bedroomed bungalow and a few other properties close to the City Ground.

I've had no time to feel homesick for Norwich. Fan mail pours in, much of it from Africa where one soccer fan has asked to be put up at my place while he finds a job in England.

I'm looking forward to my battle with Manchester City's Tommy Caton at Maine Road next week (October 24). There's a story I must tell about Tommy's debut. Dressed in immaculate suit, crisply ironed shirt, and heavily polished shoes, he went out to inspect the pitch and savour the atmosphere before the game. He remembered how pro footballers were expected to inspect the pitch, but to his horror lost the heel of one of his shoes as it dug into the grass. Red-faced Tommy limped-off, the fans laughing their heads off.

Which reminds me of another story on the circuit. One of the Sunderland players bought a new dress for his wife. Worried about the size, he was discovered trying it on in his hotel room!

I've got something interesting to tell you in a fortnight. Don't miss it. See you then.

Justin Fashanu

CHELSEA

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

A place in the top three and 13 points from your first seven games is pretty good going by anybody's standards.

But nobody at Chelsea is getting carried away by their promising start to the new season, for under new manager John Neal they have acquired the gift of patience.

For the past two seasons Chelsea have started the season like express trains and finished it like snails. But there is a steely determination at Stamford Bridge that it won't happen for a third time.

Last season the goalscoring onus fell almost exclusively on striker Colin Lee.

In the space of 14 games he netted as many goals, and Chelsea settled happily into second place behind West Ham. But Lee's touch inexplicably deserted him. Chelsea scored in only three of their last 22 League games and Lee failed to find the target in any of those matches.

Happily for Chelsea, John Neal has successfully converted the whole side into potential matchwinners.

Lee, Micky Droy, Alan Mayes, Clive Walker, Phil Driver, John Bumstead and Mickey Fillery all found the net in those seven games.

Obviously there is a long way to go yet and a lot of hard work is still needed. Neal is the first to admit that there is plenty of room for improvement, and results such as the 3-1 home defeat by Watford must be eradicated before Chelsea can seriously start to think about promotion.

But Neal is quietly confident that he can help restore the First Division status lost in 1979.

New players may be needed to help the former Wrexham and Middlesbrough boss to succeed but, as we all know, money is tight at Chelsea.

Neal has been encouraged by the performances of Colin Viljoen, John Bumstead, Phil Driver and Chris Hutchings, men who were more often out of the side than in it last season.

If he has to rely on those remaining from Geoff Hurst's two years as manager then he will be happy to do so.

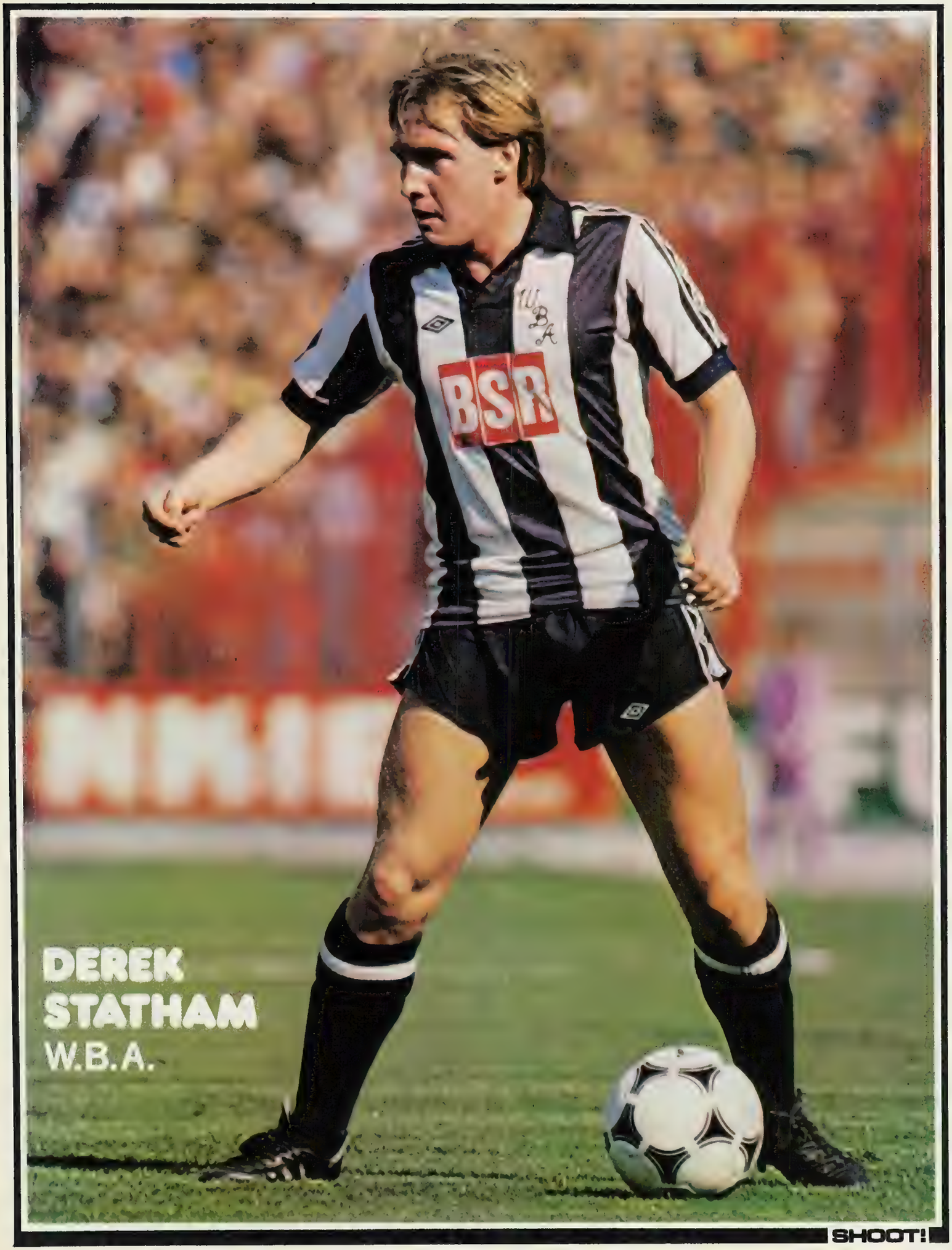
For despite all that has happened to the club since they reached the pinnacle of their success by winning the European Cup Winners' Cup ten years ago, Chelsea still remain one of the biggest names in the game.

But John Neal knows that it is imperative for him to steer the club back into the First Division as soon as possible.

BACK ROW (left to right): Michael Nelson, Colin Lee, Colin Pates, Micky Droy, Paul Williams, Phil Driver, Paul Ward.
MIDDLE ROW: Ian Mellor (reserve team manager), Ron Suart (chief scout), Peter Bonnett, Tommy Hales, Gary Chivers, Bob Fry, Peter Bonetti, Mike Fillery, Gary Locke, Chris Hutchings, Graham Wadham (head trainer), Eddie Harrison (trainer).
FRONT ROW: Graham Winkler, Kevin Hales, Clive Walker, Dennis Rofe, John Neal (manager), Ian Britton, John Bumstead, Alan Mayes, Colin Viljoen.

Crowds of 15,000 are all very well, but for a club still paying off the backlog of a crippling £4 million debt, they need visitors of the calibre of Liverpool, Spurs and Manchester United, not Cambridge, Shrewsbury and Cardiff.

John Neal may not admit as much, but a return to the First Division can't come quicker enough for Chelsea.



DEREK
STATHAM
W.B.A.

FULL SPEED AHEAD FOR BLUES' FLYING DUTCHMEN

BIRMINGHAM City are confident they have found the power for lift off in Division One with the signing of their two flying Dutchmen, Tony van Mierlo and Bud Brocken.

They believe these two strikers can tug them away from the shadows of their Champion neighbours, Aston Villa, and guide them towards the title that has always eluded them. They have never been higher than sixth and that was 25 years ago.

At first glance, it seems Birmingham have adopted the success formula of Ipswich Town where Frans Thijssen and Arnold Muhren have proved key players in their success. But that is mere coincidence.

As van Mierlo explains: "We cannot be compared with the Ipswich pair because they serve the ball up to the front men whereas I am basically a striker. My biggest asset is my speed.

"I have found that English clubs do not operate with a sweeper to the same pronounced degree as those at home and I believe that will help me."

Ability

Van Mierlo gave immediate notice of his scoring ability by notching Birmingham's only goal against Everton on the opening day.

Birmingham's Dutch connection began when they sold Jim Calderwood to the Willem II club two years ago, for part of the agreement was that they should play them when they came to England last season.

Manager Jim Smith recalls: "When I saw van Mierlo run past our full-back, Mark Dennis, I sat up and took notice. Not many players do that."

Smith's assistant, Norman Bodell, carried on the story. He said: "We both watched van Mierlo during the Dutch season which he wanted to see through with his club.

"During those games we were also impressed with Bud Brocken on the wing but we did not need him at the time because we had Alan Ainscow.

"Van Mierlo joined us exactly 300 days after we had seen him in that friendly and then in August Ainscow left for Everton. So we went back to Holland for Brocken."

That was sound psychology on Birmingham's part for as Bodel admitted: "We thought it a good idea to buy Mierlo's team-mate as a means of helping them settle in.

"They have brought their wives with them and are now living in houses only a mile apart. We are delighted because they have adapted to the English game far quicker than we thought they would."

That assessment was supported by Ipswich manager, Bobby Robson, who singled the Dutch pair out for special mention when Ipswich drew at Birmingham in only the second match of the season.

England full-back, Mick Mills, admitted that he had found van Mierlo elusive and added: "I do not understand why more clubs do not take a closer look at players in Holland."

Birmingham boss Jim Smith (top of page) signed Tony van Mierlo (left, plain shirt) and Bud Brocken (above) from Dutch club Willem II

YOU ARE THE REF

compiled by Keith Hackett

1 At the taking of a penalty the ball strikes a post and bursts? Do you (a) award a goal, (b) have the kick retaken or (c) drop the ball to restart the game?

2 Having asked your permission to have an injury attended to, a player receives the ball as he is leaving the field and scores. Do you (a) award a goal (b) send the player off and disallow the goal or (c) caution the player?

3 A defender strikes an opponent whilst in the penalty-area. The ball is in play. Do you (a) send the player off and award a penalty kick or (b) warn the player and restart the game with a drop ball?

MATCH POINT

● Recent weather conditions have certainly made my job a lot tougher. The European tie between Floriana and Standard Liege in Malta was played in high humidity, on a very hard pitch of clay and sand with a temperature of some 85 degrees. But three days later I was at Blackburn for the game against Leicester and it absolutely poured. In the first game physical contact was almost impossible, and many players were very visibly shocked after taking a tumble on the rock hard ground. At Blackburn there was a lot of surface water and the ball was sticking in puddles. In both cases I had to make allowances for things which often I wouldn't have let go. But it had to work both ways, and I'm pleased to report that the players respected and appreciated what I was trying to do and kept within the laws and spirit of the game.

ANSWERS

1. C. But if the ball burst whilst time was added on at the end of the game for the taking of the penalty kick the game would end immediately the ball hit the post and burst.
2. C. You would restart the game by awarding an indirect free-kick to his opponents team at the point where he kicked the ball.
3. A. Players who strike opponents, kick and spit do the game a great disservice. They deserve to be sent-off.

'NO EURO SUCCESS FOR OUR CLUBS'

IT'S been disastrous for the Glasgow clubs in Europe this season. Both clubs going out in the First Round . . . it was terrible for Celtic and Rangers.

Thank goodness Aberdeen and Dundee United keep the flag flying, although patriotic as I am, it's hard to see a Scottish club actually winning a European trophy in the near future.

As Celtic found out in Turin, there's a big gap between being Champions of the Premier Division and competing with the likes of Juventus. We lacked nothing in skill or belief in ourselves — just experience.

Of course my leg injury forced me to watch the second-leg from the dug-out and yet again I saw that the standard of refereeing at this level leaves much to be desired.

I'm not knocking Juventus for being dirty or over-physical. When you go abroad you expect the knocks, but it's also reasonable to expect protection.

Right in front of me I saw a Juventus defender tackle Tom McAdam. I say 'tackle', but no contact was made with the ball, only the defender's elbow with Tom's face. The ref did nothing.

The average age of our side was around 23, while Juventus' team was crammed with experienced campaigners. In the end it was a bit too much for us.

It was relatively easy for me when I came into Euro soccer many years ago. The team that won the European Cup carried me for two or three years, but we simply can't help our youngsters in this way now. They're on their own.

It's so hard for Scottish clubs to go 'all the way'. If we could keep our side together for, say, five years we might have a chance and the same goes for others. Realistically, we know that some English club will get out its cheque book and make us an offer we simply can't refuse.

Liverpool and Forest have won the European Cup for the last five seasons . . . with a little help from expensive stars they've bought. Scottish clubs can't compete in this way.

TARTAN TALK

DANNY McGRAIN

I'd say Dundee United have the best chance of glory; their style is suited to European football, but we're only at Round Two and there's a long, long way to go.

Aberdeen opened a few English eyes by beating UEFA Cup holders Ipswich. On their day Aberdeen are one of the best teams in Europe, although I wonder if they have the man-power to 'do a Liverpool' and find this sort of consistency week-in, week-out.

I hope they have better luck than we did a year ago when they travel to Rumania to play Arges Pitesti. Celtic had a Greek referee in charge in Timisoara whose performance I shall never forget.

He sent-off two of our players in highly dubious circumstances and our assistant-manager John Clark was banned for two years. He still doesn't know why.

Dundee United could have had an easier draw than Borussia Moenchengladbach, who are steeped in European soccer and who play what I call thinking football.

They should be two fascinating ties and if either United or Aberdeen do advance in Europe I hope their progress isn't over-shadowed by Scotland reaching the World Cup Finals for the third time in succession.

English clubs may dominate Europe, but the World Cup's a different matter. I'm often asked about this situation and I repeat that it's often a matter of players' attitudes.

The English Press tend to build ordinary players into superstars; the 'superstars' then believe what they read and 'success' goes to their head.

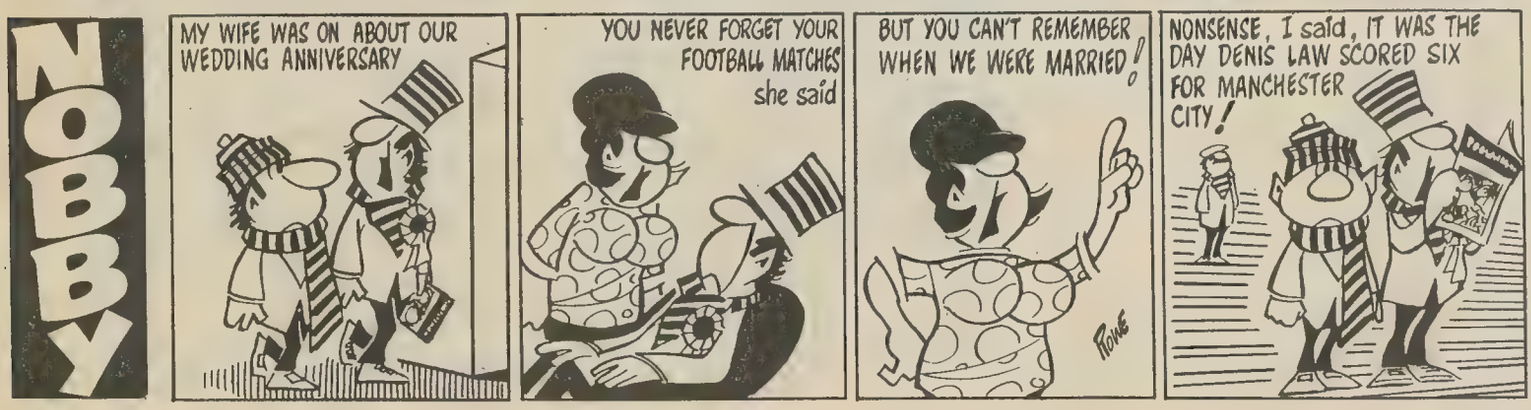
The Scottish Press tend to keep players' feet more firmly on the ground. Oh sure we've made the mistake of thinking we're better than we are, but I like to think things have changed in this respect now.

Join me again in a fortnight.

Danny McGrain

Down and out . . . Danny McGrain loses out to Juventus star Gasteno Scirea during the first leg of the European Cup First Round tie at Parkhead. The Celts lost 2-1 on aggregate.

TARTAN TALK FROM RANGERS' ALLY DAWSON NEXT WEEK



'McGRAIN DESERVES MY SHIRT'

says Aberdeen's STUART KENNEDY

STUART KENNEDY is one of the unique band of Scottish World Cup players although he doesn't appear to be in Jock Stein's present international thoughts.

The Aberdeen right-back has actually enjoyed a Scottish victory in the World Cup Finals when he played in the 3-2 win over Holland in Argentina in 1978, and Scotland's only other Finals success came in West Germany when they defeated Zaire 2-0.

"Yes, I've enjoyed my international outings," says the solid, spectacular, popular Pittodrie defender.

"Obviously, it would be nice to think I haven't been completely forgotten, but I've got every respect for the present right-back, Danny McGrain.

"The Celtic man is skipper for both club and country and, for me, he is one of the finest right-backs in the game. There is no doubt in my mind that he was world class before he was injured in '77 and forced to miss the Finals in Argentina.

"His recovery has been quite amazing and although it has put me out of the international team I must say it is good to see such a talented performer in action for my country.

"Danny is the ideal right-back for many reasons. His tackling is firm and sure, he reads the game well, his anticipation is sound, he knows when to go into attack and when to stay and his overall play is an inspiration to those around him. Although he missed the Northern Ireland game because of a fractured leg. I'm sure Danny will soon be back."

Kennedy, a bargain £40,000 buy from Falkirk by Ally MacLeod during his one-year reign as boss of the Pittodrie side in 1972, is in the McGrain mould.

His acceleration is probably better than the Celtic player and his accuracy to cross while running is quite uncanny.

Steve Archibald, his former Pittodrie team-mate, now with Spurs, recalls: "Stuart used to do a great job down that flank. He was like an extra outside-right when he got into his stride.

"He always measured his crosses and I know a lot of my goals came thanks to him. He is a first-class player."

No bounds

Kennedy's enthusiasm for the game seems to have no bounds and manager Alex Ferguson says: "He's a great team man, so unselfish and no problem at all. He always works hard at his game and is vital to our team structure."

Are the World Cup Finals just a thing of the past for fleet-footed Kennedy?

For this quiet man who is among the elite in Scottish international standing there must always be hope.

Lucky Scotland, knowing they can pull in such a cultured performer at the last minute if anything ever happened to deplete their squad.

Speedy Stuart would gladly run all the way to Spain in an effort to once again share triumph during the World Cup Finals!

DON'T FORGET THE CAPPIELOW CAVALIER

ANDY RITCHIE smiles when he hears of the fans' list of nicknames for him. The Idle Idol . . . Ambling Alp . . . Cappielow Cavalier? But there's another title he doesn't want to know about . . . The Forgotten Man!

The Former Scottish Player of the Year went into this season realising it was going to be the most important of his career.

"I've worked hard in training, I've lost weight and I'm looking forward to the challenges that are coming my way," he said. "I know I've got the ability to answer all my critics."

One opponent puts it this way: "Big Andy probably only plays for about two or three minutes out of 90. When he's on form he's brilliant and the short time he is on the ball is enough to take over the game.

"But when he's off form he disappears completely and, as we all know, work-rate is not his strong point. He is never going to be famous for the amount of energy he burns during a game!"

Ritchie responds: "Reserve team football is no use to me and I know it's entirely up to me to come back. I'll work all the way to get back into the plans of manager Benny Rooney."

Ritchie's leadership is urgently needed by Morton in a crucial term where they are without the determined attacking play of Under-21 raider Jim Tolmie, who joined SK Lokeren in the close season.

Davie Hayes, Morton's powerful right-back and former skipper says: "We all realise what an on form Andy Ritchie means to this club.

"He is a spectacular entertainer and there is little doubt that the fans love him when he turns on all his class and skills. Mr Rooney, though, has stressed to everyone at Cappielow that there is no club in the Premier Division who cannot afford to fire on all cylinders.

"Andy would be welcomed back to the first team, but it serves as a warning to us all that no one's first team place is safe."

What does the future hold in store for Ritchie, who only a few years ago was being tipped for Scotland?

Remember, it was Jock Stein who allowed Ritchie to leave Parkhead in the first place six years ago when he gave the player plus £10,000 to Morton for goalkeeper Roy Baines.

If Ritchie cannot force his way back into the limelight at Morton he must realise that his dreams of glory will surely perish.

The Forgotten Man? It would be soccer's loss if this was to become fact.

Decide what it takes to be a Champion footballer then SHOOT for the great £1,000 BRAUN jackpot

Yes, £1,000 cash prize to be won in this fantastic competition. PLUS 50 super Braun Synchron S electric shavers as Second Prizes. AND 100 'I've had a close-shave with Braun' tee-shirts for the runners-up.

The Braun Synchron S is an elegant shaver at an extremely competitive price (worth around £17.00). The dual voltage shaver has a slim functional design with the unique Braun foil technology featured in its narrow shaving head. It also features a long-hair trimmer for beard and sideboards and an easy to operate central switch for convenience. It comes in its own case and like all Braun mains shavers has a three year guarantee.

WHAT MAKES A SOCCER CHAMPION?

Listed are just eight of the special qualities needed to be a Champion footballer . . . like Kenny Dalglish, Liam Brady, Kevin Keegan (far right), Trevor Francis, Justin Fashanu, Paul Mariner, Charlie Nicholas, Danny McGrain, Mick Mills (right) and Trevor Brooking. Using your skill and judgment place them in the order you consider the qualities most essential . . . just as though you were in the manager's chair. Write the key letters of the eight qualities — in ink — in order of choice in the spaces on the entry coupon. For example; if you consider anticipation is the most essential, place C in the first space, the letter of your next choice goes under 2 and so on for all eight. To help us in the event of a tie for any of the other prizes suggest one further quality not listed.

SHOOT/BRAUN COMPETITION

In entering this competition I agree to abide by the rules and to accept the published result as final and legally binding.

Name ..... Age.....

Address.....

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Print letter here

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Another quality needed to be a soccer Champion is:—

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Tee-shirt size required (Small/Med/Large)

HOW DO YOU RATE THESE QUALITIES NECESSARY TO BE A CHAMPION FOOTBALLER?

A: STAMINA
B: LOYALTY
C: ANTICIPATION
D: BALL CONTROL
E: TEAM-SPIRIT
J: SPEED
K: EVEN TEMPERAMENT
L: SHOOTING POWER

Complete the coupon with your own name and address, cut out and paste it on a postcard, or the back of a sealed envelope, and post to:

SHOOT/BRAUN JACKPOT COMPETITION, 55 EWER STREET, LONDON SE99 6YP, to arrive not later than MONDAY, 2nd NOVEMBER, 1981.

RULES

All entries will be examined and the judges will award the First Prize of £1,000 to the entrant they consider has shown the greatest skill and judgment in placing the eight qualities in order of importance. In the event of a tie for the First Prize, those tying will share the £1,000 cash. No entrant may win more than one share. Remaining prizes will be awarded for the next best entries in order of merit with tie breaker considered. Decisions of the judges and of the Editor in all other matters affecting the competition will be final and no correspondence will be entered into. The competition is open to all readers in Great Britain, Northern Ireland, Channel Isles, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland, except employees and their families of IPC Magazines Ltd., Braun and the printers of SHOOT. Entries received after the closing date, or incomplete, altered or mutilated, or not complying exactly with the instructions and rules will be disqualified. No responsibility can be accepted for entries lost or delayed in the post or elsewhere. Winners will be notified and the results published later in SHOOT.

LEEDS v W.B.A.

BARNES SET FOR THE BATTLE FOR SURVIVAL

ENGLAND winger Peter Barnes reckons he will be among friends when he turns out for Leeds United against his former West Bromwich Albion colleagues at Elland Road on Saturday (October 17).

"I had two marvellous years with Albion after they had paid Manchester City £748,000 for me in the summer of 1979," he said.

"And I regard most of their team as good pals, particularly fellow-Lancastrian Gary Owen, who used to be as daft about Manchester City as I was.

"It was the wonderful service I received from Gary's midfield work which helped me to score a lot of the 30 or so goals for Albion.

'Teamwork'

"But it would be wrong to single out individuals, because the essence of our game was teamwork. Ron Atkinson encouraged us to play bright, attacking football and we had the players to do this.

"The pity is that Albion have lost players such as me, Bryan Robson, and Remi Moses, who of course have followed Ron to Old Trafford.

"It really is a shame for Albion fans that ambition has depleted a team which had the makings of a Championship-challenging side.

"Having said that, I still think manager Ronnie Allen, one of soccer's nice guys, has a squad which will finish high in the table.

"They have made a poor start to the season — just like Leeds — but with players of the calibre of Owen, John Deehan, Cyrille Regis and Derek Statham the tide is bound to turn for them.

"I know if I hadn't great confidence in my ability I wouldn't fancy tackling a defence which contained Alistair Robertson and Derek Statham, who for my money is the best left-back in Britain.

"I'm aware that Kenny Sansom and Mick Mills have a firm hold on the England number three shirt, but if I were in charge of the team I'd find a place for Derek.

"He's got skill, vision, speed and strength and the way he has bounced back after a long lay-off, last season because of injury speaks volumes for his determination. I'm a great fan of his."

And the 24-year-old Barnes also rates Statham's full-back partner, Brendon Batson, the former Arsenal and Cambridge defender.

"No doubt Brendon will be my immediate opponent on Saturday," says the Leeds winger. "And I don't doubt I'll know I've been in a match when the final whistle blows! Brendon's keen as mustard. But it will be fun to be meeting up with so many old friends."

Fun — that's the word that Barnes likes to use when talking about his football. Ex-England goalpoacher Jimmy Greaves had this to say in his recent book: "Peter Barnes is a throwback to the old-style wingers, as gifted a player as there is in the League.

"If he could only marry consistency with his natural brilliance he would be bracketed with the likes of Matthews and Finney.

"He is not a regular goalscorer, but with more conviction he could make an impact as a marksman."

It's unlikely that Barnes would quarrel with that. Indeed, shortly after his £930,000 transfer to Leeds, he found himself publicly criticised for his displays in a side which was struggling as manager Allan Clarke sought in vain for more "quality" signings.

But clear-the-air talks between player and manager sweetened the atmosphere and now Barnes says he's "happy as a sandboy".

After Leeds had crashed 5-1, 4-0, 4-0 in successive away games Barnes opened his goal account at Ipswich of all places. That did his — and his team-mates' — confidence a world of good even though they lost to a late goal.

'Confidence'

West Brom could well pay for that new-found confidence. As Barnes says: "I had a lot of ups and downs during my time at The Hawthorns. I went there as a 22-year-old — I'd just had my birthday — and I had a lot to learn.

"My first five months were spent in an hotel before I moved into digs with a Mr. and Mrs. Weaver. They were like parents to me and they did as much as anyone to help me find my feet in the Midlands.

"Unfortunately I lost my England place while settling in with my new club and, ironically, regained it for a World Cup game with Norway which unfortunately clashed with my wedding day. Ron Greenwood was very understanding and released me.

"But it took me 12 months to get back in the national team. Now I want to win a regular spot. And that's another reason why I'll be trying all I know to make a big impression on Saturday.

"A few headline-grabbing performances would do me no harm."

Neutral observers have described the coming clash at Elland Road as a battle for survival for both teams. Lots of points squandered in the early games have thrust both teams among the First Division stragglers.

But Barnes remains confident that all will turn out well for Leeds. "A couple of top-class signings would make a world of difference to us," he says.

Leeds fans, who have endured seven barren years since Don Revie lead them to the League Championship in 1973-74, will hope he's right.

West Brom full-back Brendon Batson is sure to give Barnes a hard time on Saturday.

GOAL-LINES

Send your letters to STEVE CARTER, GOAL-LINES, SHOOT!, IPC Magazines Ltd., King's Reach Tower, Stamford St., London SE1 9LS. U.K. readers receive £10 for the Star Letter - £4 for every other published. Overseas readers receive a special SHOOT T-shirt. Please state which size: small, medium or large. When writing to us please mention the two features you liked best in the latest issue of SHOOT! All letters must be exclusive to SHOOT!

This week's Star Letter comes from R. Johnson of Northchurch, Herts., who wins our Special Prize of £10. He writes:

SPURS' FICKLE FANS

MY fiancee and I are standing season ticket holders at Tottenham and we have been disgusted at the behaviour of many of our supporters at the home matches.

The jeers and insults hurled at certain Spurs players, especially full-back Gordon Smith (right) were not confined purely to the troublesome element.

Indeed season ticket holders (the so-called responsible people) were joining in.

The Tottenham crowd has always been notorious for its cruelty to certain players; John Pratt and Colin Lee are examples.

It just served to convince me of one thing. Tottenham have the most fickle supporters in the country.

● *Can other Spurs fans argue with this?*

Pen-Pal

I'M an 18-year-old football fan who supports Q.P.R. and a Norwegian Division One side, Haugar. I would like to correspond with an English girl. I'm dark, have brown eyes, am 6' 1" tall and I'm a referee.

RUNE PEDERSEN,
BEVERTUNET 39,
5500 HAUGESUND, NORWAY.

Francis shock

TREVOR FRANCIS has always been my favourite player, but I was shocked to hear that he had signed for Manchester City.

I cannot see any good reasons for him to leave Nottingham Forest: he scored twice on the opening match and settled in very well.

During an interview on Piccadilly Radio, Trevor said that City can win something this season — it seems to me he'd have a much better chance in winning some honours if he had stayed at Forest.

I have a strong feeling that Trevor Francis will be playing in a Second Division team next season.

I hope that I am wrong.

L. WONG,
MANCHESTER.

● *Forest had to sell Francis to raise money to pay for other transfers. Trevor didn't ask to leave. It's a shame he sustained an injury so early in his City career . . . but while City probably won't win anything this season they won't be relegated.*

Trevor Francis was sold to City in order to finance other Forest transfer deals.

Panel of selectors

ONE of the major reasons why England have failed at international level is that too often the manager has picked his team to suit the media.

To combat this I would follow cricket's example and appoint a team of selectors.

Instead of one man deciding which players to pick, there would be a board of four or five experienced people who have a good knowledge of international football.

My panel would comprise of Kevin Keegan, Dave Sexton, Geoff Hurst, Joe Mercer and Ron Greenwood.

Although this would only solve a small part of the problem I feel that we must stop having one scapegoat and share the responsibilities more fairly.

CHRIS SHAW,
DIGGLE.

● *The England soccer team needs the sort of spirit that retained the Ashes after all seemed lost, not a cricket-style selection committee.*

Giddy comeback

THE fact that Manchester United full-back John Gidman has only played once for England is a mystery to me.

How can Ron Greenwood afford to overlook such a talented player?

In my opinion he is the most complete full-back in England and has been desperately unlucky as regards international caps.

The right-back position has been something of a problem for England in recent years, but I think the answer would be to play John Gidman.

PAUL MIRFIELD,
LOANSDEAN.

● *His transfer to Man. Utd. will have boosted his chances of a recall — but Phil Neal will play against Hungary, I'm sure.*

Seats not the answer

I WAS annoyed to read in a recent copy of SHOOT that you had replied to a reader's letter by saying that Coventry City's all-seater stadium plan was a winner.

What you omitted to say was that you had reached this rather abrupt conclusion after only one League match had been played at Highfield Road since the new seats were first installed at the start of the season.

According to reports in a Sunday paper after the Coventry v. Leeds Utd match, 59 arrests were made at the match and Leeds supporters ripped up seats to use as missiles to hurl at Coventry supporters and the police.

It is naive and foolish to jump to the conclusion that all-seated stadiums will solve the problem of football hooliganism overnight.

There is no reason why football hooligans shouldn't bother turning up to a match if they have to sit down — if they are bent on causing trouble as they usually are, they will turn up, seats or no seats.

Football hooliganism is caused by many complex social factors, and it cannot be solved by simple technical solutions such as installing seats in grounds.

CHRISTOPHER ASHBRIDGE,
MUSWELL HILL.

● *I never said an all-seater stadium would eliminate hooliganism, but despite the bad behaviour of some Leeds fans I still believe Coventry's idea will cut down crowd trouble. At a time when everyone is talking about soccer's problems, I congratulate City for taking some sort of positive action.*

Work, don't think

HERE is my advice to English footballers. Try to work to become the best instead of thinking you are the best.

OLA CARLSSON,
SWEDEN.

● *Surely they can't think that any more?*

Pen-Pal

I AM an Italian boy who would like to correspond with a girl living in the Birmingham area supporting Aston Villa.

FABRIZIO DE CESARI,
VIA TRENTO 13/25-16145,
GENOA, ITALY.

Ask THE Expert

Send your letters to: Ask the Expert, SHOOT! King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS. U.K. readers receive £2 for every letter published. Overseas readers receive a special SHOOT T-shirt. When writing, please state size: small, medium or large. While every letter is read, our Expert regrets he cannot reply to individual letters personally.

Villa's record

What is the highest number of goals scored by a team in each of the four Divisions of the Football League?

ABIMBOLA TAYO,
WALTHAMSTOW

● In the First Division, Abimbola, it's 128 by Aston Villa in 1930-31; in the Second, it's 122 by Middlesbrough in 1926-27.

Both were for 42 games — but 46 were played in the Third when Q.P.R. scored 111 in 1961-62; and in the Fourth when Peterborough scored 134 in 1960-61.

In the old North and South Sections of the Third Divisions — for 42 games apiece — the record is held by Bradford City (128 in 1928-29); and by Millwall (127 in 1927-28).

Amateur Champs

Did any of the present Football League clubs ever win the old F.A. Amateur Cup.

NURENI ADAWUYI,
NIGERIA

● Yes, Nureni, but only a couple in its long existence between 1894 and 1974.

Middlesbrough won in 1895 and 1898 — and Wimbledon followed suit in 1963.

Least points

What was the lowest number of points ever gained by Football League Champions?

BALWANT MATTU,
BIRMINGHAM

● Since the First Division was increased to its present 22 clubs (that is, 42 games) in 1919-20, Balwant, 52 points is the lowest for any Champs.

That's happened three times — by Sheffield Wednesday (1928-29); Arsenal (1937-38); and Chelsea (1954-55).

Now it's three points, instead of two, for a win . . . that record low looks like remaining for all time.

SHORT PASSES

● In England's 7-0 win over Austria at Wembley on 26th September, 1973, the scorers were Mike Channon (2), Allan Clarke (2), Martin Chivers, Tony Currie, and Colin Bell.

(LOUISE SMYTH, Mansfield)

● Preston's record win is 26-0 — v. Hyde (F.A. Cup 1st Round; 15th October, 1887).

(PETER DONAGHUE, Loughton)

● Nottingham Forest's first Football League game was a 2-2 draw at Everton on 3rd September, 1892.

(CHRIS DAVIES, Nottingham)

● Sheffield United have won the F.A. Cup four times — in 1899, 1902, 1915, and 1925. They have never won the League Cup.

(GEORGE VICKERS, Sheffield)


BRIAN FLYNN
Leeds Utd.

The BRAUN CHAMPI

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP
First winners 1888-89 — Preston
1980-81 — Aston Villa
1981-82 winners

F.A. CUP
First winners 1872 — Wanderers
1980-81 — Tottenham Hotspur
1981-82 winners

LEAGUE CUP
First winners — 1961 — Aston Villa
1980-81 — Liverpool
1981-82 winners

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SCOTTISH LEAGUE CUP
First winners 1946 — Aberdeen
1980-81 — Dundee United
1981-82 winners

SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP
First winners 1890-91 — Dumbarton and Rangers (shared)
1980-81 — Celtic
1981-82 winners

SCOTTISH CUP
First winners 1874 — Queen's Park
1980-81 — Rangers
1981-82 winners

BRITAIN IN EUROPE

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS
1967 — Celtic
1968 — Manchester Utd.
1977 — Liverpool
1978 — Liverpool
1979 — Nottm. Forest
1980 — Nottm. Forest
1981 — Liverpool

EUROPEAN CUP-WINNERS' CUP
1963 — Tottenham
1965 — West Ham
1970 — Man. City
1971 — Chelsea
1972 — Rangers

FAIRS CUP
1968 — Leeds
1969 — Newcastle
1970 — Arsenal
1971 — Leeds

U.E.F.A. CUP
1972 — Tottenham
1973 — Liverpool
1976 — Liverpool
1981 — Ipswich

Ritchie's on the rampage

TOM Ritchie knows all about the ups and downs of League football.

At the moment, Tom is on the rampage and among the goals as he and his Sunderland team-mates look back on a bright start to the season.

The Roker Park fans are really beginning to appreciate the quiet style of the lanky Scot . . . but it was a very different state of affairs at the end of last season.

Ritchie never settled after his £175,000 signing from Bristol City last February and could make little impact as Sunderland managed to escape relegation by a whisker.

It is not hard to see the reasons for his disappointing start . . . a struggling side, behind-the-scenes trouble at the club and frequent trips to Bristol to see his family.

But Ritchie doesn't make excuses. "I didn't seem able to score goals, but I prefer to think it was simply the sort of spell that all strikers go through from time to time," he says.

Ritchie agonised for a long time about the move from a club where he had spent all his career and, inevitably, a few doubts crept into his mind.

"But deep down, I knew it was the right move for me," he says. "When Sunderland came in for me, I looked at the League table and was convinced it was time to leave Bristol."

If Ritchie needed any further impetus to head to Roker Park, it might have come from a glance at his trophy cabinet, where his only winner's medal is from the Anglo-Scottish Cup Final of 1979 — a poor reward for a highly-rated professional.

He knew his chances of adding to that at Ashton Gate were limited, but is quick to point out: "We didn't win much in my 11 years with Bristol, but I was always happy there, and that is important to me.

"But now I feel I'm at a place which has the potential to be among the biggest clubs in the country.

'First Class'

"We have a good, young manager in Alan Durban and the next few years could be very exciting. I like to think I've got a few seasons left in me and it would be nice to be a part of any success."

Durban is one man who would be more than happy to see Ritchie in his side for some time to come.

"In all respects, he's simply a first class professional," said the new Roker boss. "I don't expect him to get 25 or 30 goals a season, but he'll get into double figures and set up a few for other people."

His former boss at Bristol, Alan Dicks, is another fan. "Tom is pure quality and the Sunderland fans will now realise it has been worth waiting to see the real Ritchie."

Ritchie's reaction? "It's nice when people say those sort of things . . . but I know I've got to keep working hard to keep my place at Sunderland.

"One thing is for sure — I've absolutely no doubts that this is the place for me."

STOP KISSING — BY ORDER

SOCCER'S governing body, FIFA, wants kissing and other "exaggerated forms of celebration stopped. They say it harms the game. Try telling someone who's just scored the winner in a Cup Final to control himself. Soccer has many problems, but surely FIFA could use its influence in a better direction. In the meantime, here are the sort of scenes that you'll be seeing this weekend . . . and the next . . . and the next . . .

Kiss me quick Ipswich's Kevin Beattie and Mick Mills

LEFT: Villa's Terry Donovan and Gordon Cowans get better acquainted. BELOW: Celebration time at West Ham.

ABOVE: Two's company for Birmingham's Tony Evans and Bud Brocken. LEFT: Best of friends as Luton celebrate a Mal Donaghy goal.

LINE-UPS...RESULTS...SCORERS..

Tues, September 22

First Division

ARSENAL (1) 1 (Talbot)
BIRMINGHAM (0) 0 19,504
Arsenal: Jennings, Devine, Sansom, Talbot, O'Leary, Young, Davis, Sunderland, McDermott, Hollins, Rix.
Birmingham: Wealands, Langan, Dennis, Dillon, Broadhurst, Todd, Handysides, Whatmore, Evans (Worthington), Gemmill, van Mierlo.

COVENTRY (1) 1 (Daly)
LIVERPOOL (2) 2 (Kennedy (A), McDermott pen) 16,731
Coventry: Blyth, Thomas, Roberts, Jacobs, Dyson, Gillespie, Kaiser, Daly, Thompson, Whitton (Hateley), Hunt.
Liverpool: Grobbelaar, Neal, Kennedy (A), Thompson, Kennedy (R), Hansen, Dalglish, Lee, Johnson (Lawrenson), McDermott, Souness.

EVERTON (2) 3 (Eastoe, Ross, O'Keefe)
NOTTS CO (0) 1 (McCulloch) 22,175
Everton: Arnold, Wright, Ratcliffe, Walsh, Lyons, Thomas, Ross, Eastoe, Biley (O'Keefe), Hartford, Ainscow
Notts Co: Avramovic, Benjamin, O'Brien, Goodwin, Kilcline, Richards, McCulloch (Mair), Masson, Christie, Hunt, Hooks.

IPSWICH (0) 1 (Deehan (o.g.))
W.B.A. (0) 0 20,524
Ipswich: Cooper, Mills, McCall, Parkin (O'Callaghan), Steggles, Butcher, Wark, Muhren, Mariner, Brazil, Gates.
WBA: Godden, Batson, Statham, Brown, Wile, Robertson (Harper), Deehan, Mills, Regis, Cross, Mackenzie.

MIDDLESBROUGH(0) 0
MAN UTD (1) 2 (Stapleton, Birtles) 19,772
Middlesbrough: Platt, Craggs, Bolton, Ross, Baxter, McAndrew, Woof, Otto, Hodgson, Shearer, Askew.
Man. Utd: Bailey, Gidman, Albiston, Wilkins, McQueen, Buchan (Duxbury), Coppell, Birtles, Stapleton, Macari, Moses.

SWANSEA (0) 2 (James (R), Curtis)
TOTTENHAM (0) 1 (Hoddle pen) 22,206
Swansea: Davies, Robinson, Hadziabdic (Charles), Rajkovic, Irwin, Mahoney, Curtis, James (R), James (L), Thompson, Latchford,
Tottenham: Clemence, Hughton, Miller, Roberts, Villa, Perryman, Ardiles, Archibald, Galvin, Hoddle, Falco.

WEST HAM (2) 4 (Goddard 3, Pike)
SOUTHAMPTON (1) 2 (Armstrong, Waldron). 34,026
West Ham: Parkes, Stewart, Lampard, Bonds, Martin, Devonshire, Neighbour, Goddard, Cross, Allen, Pike.
Southampton: Wells, Golac, Holmes, Agboola, Watson (Rogers), Waldron, Keegan, Baker, Puckett, Armstrong, Ball.

WOLVES (0) 0
BRIGHTON (1) 1 (Ritchie) 12,586
Wolves: Bradshaw, Humphrey, Parkin, Daniel, Gallagher, Berry, Birch, Hibbitt, Gray, Clarke, Matthews.
Brighton: Moseley, Shanks, Williams, Grealish, Case, Foster, Gatting, McNab, Robinson, Ritchie, Smith.

Second Division

BARNSLEY (1) 1 (Banks)
SHEFFIELD WED (0) 0 28,870
Barnsley: Horn, Joyce, Chambers, Glavin, Banks, McCarthy, Evans, Parker, Aylott, McHale, Barrowclough.
Sheff Wed: Bolder, Sterland, Williamson, Smith, Shirtliff, Taylor (Mellor), Megson, Mirocevic, Bannister, McCulloch, Curran.

C. PALACE (1) 1 (Hilaire)
ORIENT (0) 0 11,061
C. Palace: Barron, Lovell, Cannon, Price, Wicks, Gilbert, Bason, Smillie, Walsh, Langley, Hilaire.
Orient: Day, Fisher, Roffey, Taylor (T), Gray, Cunningham, Jennings, Godfrey, Moores, Hughton, Hallybone.

GRIMSBY(0) 1 (Whymark)
NORWICH (2) 2 (Jack pen, Woods) 10,185
Grimsby: Batch, Stone, Crombie (Kilmore), Waters, Wigginton, Moore (K), Brolly, Whymark, Drinkell, Mitchell, Cumming.
Norwich: Woods, Nightingale, Downs, McGuire, Walford, Watson, Barham, Shepherd, Woods, Paddon, Jack.

LUTON (1) 2 (Saxby, Antic)
CARDIFF (2) 3 (Kitchen pen, Sayer, Stevens) 9,015
Luton: Findlay, Stephens, Aizlewood (Fuccillo), Horton, Saxby, Donaghy, Hill, Stein, White, Antic, Moss.
Cardiff: Healey, Jones, Sullivan, Sayer, Pontin, Dwyer, Lewis, Kitchen, Stevens, Ronson, Micallef.

OLDHAM (1) 2 (Steel 2)
Q.P.R. (0) 0 6,421
Oldham: McDonnell, Hoolickin, Ryan, Keegan, Clements, Futcher, Heaton, Atkinson (Nuttall), Steel, Palmer, McDonough.
Q.P.R: Burridge, Gregory, Fenwick, Waddock, Hazell, Roeder, Flanagan, Stainrod, Allen, Currie, Gillard.

Larry May on target for Leicester at Rotherham.

ROTHERHAM (0) 1 (Moore)
LEICESTER (0) 1 (May) 7,781
Rotherham: Mountford, Forrest, Breckin, Green, Stancliffe, Mullen, Towner, Rhodes, Moore, Fern, Henson.
Leicester: Wallington, Williams, Gibson, Peake, May, O'Neill, Lynex, Melrose, Young, Wilson, Robson.

WREXHAM (0) 0
WATFORD (1) 1 (Taylor) 3,911
Wrexham: Niedzwiecki, Jones, Dowman, Cegielski, Hill, Fox, Hunt, Edwards, Vinter, McNeil, Carrodus.
Watford: Sherwood, Rice, Jackett, Taylor, Sims, Bolton, Callaghan, Jenkins, Armstrong, Blissett, Barnes.

Third Division

BRISTOL CITY (1) 3 (Harford, Nicholls, Mann)
PLYMOUTH (2) 2 (Sims, Hodges) 7,471

BURNLEY (0) 0
DONCASTER (0) 1 (Dawson) 3,789

CHESTERFIELD (1) 1 (Henderson)
CARLISLE (0) 0 4,710

PRESTON (1) 1 (Naughton)
HUDDERSFIELD (1) 1 (Kennedy) 6,483

WIMBLEDON (0) 1 (Leslie)
FULHAM (1) 3 (Coney 2, Davies) 5,554

Fourth Division

COLCHESTER (1) 1 (Coleman)
ALDERSHOT (0) 1 (Crosby) 2,719

DARLINGTON (0) 1 (Hamilton)
BRADFORD (2) 5 (Gallagher 2, McNiven 2, Ingham) 2,303

HALIFAX(0) 0
TRANMERE (2) 2 (Bramhall, Brown) 1,943

HULL (1) 1 (Ferguson)
PETERBOROUGH (0) 1 (Cooke) 3,713

ROCHDALE 0
BLACKPOOL 0 2,763

SCUNTHORPE (1) 2 (Oates, Moss)
HARTLEPOOL (1) 1 (Newton) 1,998

YORK(0) 0
BOURNEMOUTH (1) 1 (Dawtry) 2,252

Wed, September 23

First Division

ASTON VILLA (1) 2 (Withe 2)
STOKE (0) 2 (Griffiths, Maguire pen) 25,637
Aston Villa: Rimmer, Gibson, Swain, Evans, McNaught, Mortimer, Bremner, Donovan, Withe, Cowans, Morley.
Stoke: Fox, Hampton, Dodd, O'Callaghan, Smith, Griffiths, Heath, Chapman, Bracewell, Maguire.

MAN CITY (2) 4 (Tueart 2, Reeves 2)
LEEDS (0) 0 35,077
Man City: Corrigan, Ranson, McDonald, Reid, Power, Caton, Tueart, Gow, Francis (O'Neill), Hutchison, Reeves.
Leeds: Lukic, Greenhoff, Gray (E) (Hamson), Flynn, Gray (F), Cherry, Harris, Hird, Connor, Stevenson, Barnes.

NOTTM FOR (0) 2 (Wallace, Proctor)
SUNDERLAND (0) 0 21,133
Nottm For: Shilton, Anderson, Gray, McGovern, Aas, Gunn, Mills, Wallace, Fashanu, Proctor, Robertson.
Sunderland: Siddall, Hinnigan, Munro, Buckley, Clarke, Hindmarch, Arnott, Cummins, Ritchie, Rowell (McCoist), Pickering.

Second Division

BLACKBURN (0) 1 (Crawford)
CAMBRIDGE(0) 0 7,518
Blackburn: Gennoe, Branagan, Rathbone, Garner, Keeley, Fazackerley, Miller, Burke, Stonehouse, Crawford, Brotherston.
Cambridge: Webster, Donaldson, Murray, Reilly, Fallon, O'Neill, Streete, Spriggs, Mayo, Gibbins, Finney.

CHELSEA (1) 2 (Driver 2)
CHARLTON (1) 2 (Walsh 2) 15,329
Chelsea: Isles, Locke, Rofe (Rhoades-Brown), Viljoen, Pates, Chivers, Driver, Bumstead, Lee, Mayes, Fillery.
Charlton: Johns, Naylor, Ferns, Gritt, McAllister, Phillips, Elliott, Walsh, Hales, Lansdowne, Robinson.

DERBY (0) 0
BOLTON (2) 2 (McElhinney, Thompson) 12,066
Derby: Cherry, Coop, Buckley, Powell (S), Ramage, Powell (B), Emery, Reid, Hector, Swindlehurst, Emson (Wilson).
Bolton: McDonagh, Nicholson, Bennett, Henry, McElhinney, Gowling, Thompson, Kidd, Hoggan, Cantello, Hebberd.

NEWCASTLE (1) 2 (Wharton, Shinton)
SHREWSBURY (0) 13,710
Newcastle: Carr, Brownlie, Davies, Trewick, Barton, Halliday, Shinton, Martin, Varadi (Shoulder), Wharton, Waddle.
Shrewsbury: Wardle, Leonard, Johnson, Patts, Griffin, McLaren, Tong, McNally, Atkins, Biggins (Cross), Bates.

Third Division

CHESTER 0
WALSALL 0 1,978

EXETER (1) 1 (Kellow)
BRISTOL ROVERS (2) 3 (Williams, McCaffery, Randall) 5,510

LINCOLN (0) 0
MILLWALL (1) 1 (Chatterton) 3,923

OXFORD (0) 0
PORTSMOUTH (1) 2 (Doyle pen, Rafferty) 4,750

READING (0) 2 (Dixon, Heale)
NEWPORT (0) 1 (Aldridge) 4,542

Fourth Division

CREWE (1) 1 (Palios)
BURY (0) 2 (Madden, Butler) 2,033

HEREFORD (0) 0
TORQUAY (3) 3 (Sermanni, Lawrence, Weston) 2,408

WIGAN (1) 2 (McMahon, Sheldon)
PORT VALE (0) 0 4,525

Scottish League Cup

(Quarter-Finals, second leg)

BERWICK (0) 0
ABERDEEN (2) 3 (McMaster, McGhee, Harrow) 2,000
(Aberdeen win 8-0 on agg.)

DUNDEE UTD (2) 5 (Payne, Dodds, Sturrock, Reilly, Kirkwood)
HAMILTON (0) 0 2,500
(Dundee Utd win 9-0 on agg.)

RANGERS (0) 1 (MacDonald)
BRECHIN (0) 0 3,000
(Rangers win 5-0 on agg.)

ST MIRREN (2) 6 (McDougall 2, Logan 2, Somner, Stark)
FORFAR (0) 0 3,101
(St Mirren win 7-1 on agg.)

Scottish First

AYR 0
HEARTS 0 3,500

DUNFERMLINE (1) 1 (McNaughton)
FALKIRK (1) 1 (Hoggan pen) 2,700

E. STIRLING (2) 3 (Dickson (og), McCulley pen, Edgar)
QoS (1) 1 (McCann) 980

MOTHERWELL (3) 3 (McLaughlin 2, Clelland)
RAITH (0) 0 4,300

QUEEN'S PARK (2) 3 (Gilmour 2, Wood)
DUMBARTON (0) 0 987

ST JOHNSTONE (0) 0
KILMARNOCK (2) 2 (Bourke, Clark) 956

Scottish Second

ALLOA (2) 3 (Hamilton (og), Patterson, Purdie)
STRANRAER (2) 2 (Neil, Sweeney) 650

COWDENBEATH (1) 3 (Liddle 2, Forrest)
STENHOUSEMUIR (0) 1 (Bremner) 380

MEADOWBANK (2) 2 (Sproat, Jobson)
MONTROSE (0) 2 (Taylor, Allan) 420

Ipswich's John Wark gets in a header at the Leeds goal.

LINE-UPS...RESULTS...

Sat, September 26

First Division

ARSENAL 0
MANCHESTER UTD 0 39,797
Arsenal: Jennings, Devine, Sansom, Talbot, O'Leary, Young, Hollins, Sunderland, Hawley, Nicholas, Davis.
Man. Utd: Bailey, Gidman, Albiston, Wilkins, McQueen, Buchan, Coppell, Birtles, Stapleton, Macari, Moses.

ASTON VILLA 0
BIRMINGHAM 0 40,763
A. Villa: Rimmer, Swain, Gibson, Evans, Ormsby, Mortimer, Bremner, Blair, Withe, Cowans, Morley.
Birmingham: Wealands, Langan, Dennis, Dillon, Broadhurst, Todd, Brocken (Handysides), Whatmore, Worthington, Gemmill, van Mierlo.

COVENTRY (1) 4 (Hunt 2, Thompson 2)
SOUTHAMPTON (1) 2 (Keegan 2 (1 pen)) 12,610
Coventry: Blyth, Thomas, Roberts, Jacobs, Dyson, Gillespie, Kaiser, Daly, Thompson, Whitton, Hunt.
Southampton: Wells, Golac, Holmes, Baker (Puckett), Watson, Waldron, Keegan, Channon, Moran, Armstrong, Ball.

EVERTON (0) 1 (Lyons)
WBA (0) 0 23,871
Everton: Arnold, Wright, Ratcliffe, Walsh, Lyons, Thomas, Ross, McMahon (McBride), Biley, Hartford, O'Keefe.
WBA: Godden, Batson, Statham, King, Wile, Cross, Robson, Mills, Regis, Owen, Mackenzie.

IPSWICH (0) 2 (Butcher, Gates)
LEEDS (1) 1 (Barnes) 22,319
Ipswich: Cooper, Mills, McCall, Parkin, Steggles, Butcher, Wark, Muhren, Mariner, O'Callaghan, Gates.
Leeds: Lukic, Greenhoff (Arins), Gray (F), Flynn, Stevenson, Cherry, Harris, Graham, Thomas, Hird, Barnes.

MANCHESTER CITY (0) 0
TOTTENHAM (0) 1 (Falco) 39,085
Man. City: Corrigan, Ranson, McDonald, Reid, O'Neill, Caton, Tueart, Gow, Boyer (Bond), Hutchison, Reeves.
Tottenham: Clemence, Hughton, Miller, Roberts, Villa, Perryman, Ardiles, Archibald, Galvin, Hoddle, Falco.

MIDDLESBROUGH (1) 3 (Cochrane, Woof, Shearer)
STOKE (1) 2 (Griffiths, Chapman) 11,604
Middlesbrough: Platt, Craggs, Bolton, Ross (Thompson), Baxter, McAndrew, Cochrane, Otto, Shearer, Woof, Askew.
Stoke: Fox, Evans, Hampton, Dodd, O'Callaghan, Bould, Griffiths, Heath (Cook), Chapman, Bracewell, Maguire.

NOTTM. FOREST (0) 2 (Burns, Wallace)
BRIGHTON (1) 1 (Smith) 19,220
Nottm. Forest: Shilton, Anderson, Gray, McGovern, Burns, Aas, Mills, Wallace, Fashanu, Proctor, Robertson.
Brighton: Moseley, Shanks, Williams, Grealish, Foster, Gatting, Case, Ritchie, Robinson, McNab, Smith.

SWANSEA (0) 2 (James (L) pen, Curtis)
SUNDERLAND (0) 0 17,826
Swansea: Davies, Robinson, Hadziabdic, Rajkovic, Irwin, Mahoney, Curtis, James (R), James (L), Charles, Latchford (Thompson).
Sunderland: Siddall, Hinnigan, Elliott, Buckley, Clarke, Hindmarch, Arnott, Cummins, Ritchie, Rowell, Pickering (McCoist).

WEST HAM (1) 1 (Pike)
LIVERPOOL (0) 1 (Johnson) 30,802
West Ham: Parkes, Stewart, Lampard, Bonds, Martin, Devonshire, Neighbour, Goddard, Cross, Allen, Pike.
Liverpool: Grobbelaar, Neal, Kennedy (A), Thompson, Kennedy (R), Hansen, Dalglish, Lee, Johnson, McDermott, Souness.

WOLVES (1) 3 (Eves 2, Daniel)
NOTTS COUNTY (1) 2 (Berry (og), (Goodwin) 11,594
Wolves: Bradshaw, Palmer, Parkin, Daniel, Gallagher, Berry, Hibbitt (Richards), Birch, Gray, Eves, Matthews.
Notts Co: Avramovic, Benjamin, Worthington, Goodwin, Kilcline, Richards, McCulloch, Masson, Christie, Hunt, Hooks.

Second Division

BARNSLEY (0) 0
CARDIFF (0) 1 (Stevens) 12,114
Barnsley: Horn, Joyce, Chambers, Glavin, Banks, McCarthy, Evans, Parker (Riley), Aylott, McHale, Barrowclough.
Cardiff: Healey, Jones, Sullivan, Sayer, Pontin, Dwyer, Bennett, Sugrue, Stevens, Ronson, Lewis.

Liverpool 'keeper Bruce Grobbelaar fists clear from West Ham's David Cross.

BLACKBURN (0) 0
LEICESTER (1) 2 (May, Melrose) 8,925
Blackburn: Gennoe, Branagan, Rathbone, Hamilton, Keeley, Fazackerley, Miller, Burke, Stonehouse, Crawford (Garner), Brotherston.
Leicester: Wallington, Williams, Gibson, Ramsay, May, O'Neill, Lynex, Melrose, Young, Wilson, MacDonald.

CHELSEA (1) 2 (Bumstead pen, Driver)
NORWICH (1) 1 (Jack) 14,509
Chelsea: Borota, Locke, Hutchings, Rhoades-Brown, Pates, Chivers, Driver, Bumstead, Lee, Mayes, Fillery.
Norwich: Woods, Nightingale, Downs, McGuire, Walford, Watson (Bertschin), Barham, Shepherd, Woods, Paddon, Jack.

CRYSTAL PALACE (0) 0
SHREWSBURY (0) 1 (Bates) 9,093
C. Palace: Barron, Lovell, Cannon, Price, Wicks, Gilbert, Bason, Smillie, Walsh, Langley, Hilaire (Leahy).
Shrewsbury: Wardle, Leonard, Johnson, Petts, Griffin, MacLaren, Tong, McNally, Atkins, Biggins, Bates.

DERBY (1) 3 (Hector 2, Ramage)
QPR (0) 1 (Gregory) 11,246
Derby: Cherry, Coop, Osgood, Powell (S), Ramage, Powell (B), Gamble (Sheridan), Reid, Hector, Swindlehurst, Emson.
QPR: Burridge, Gregory, Fenwick, Waddock, Hazell, Roeder, Flanagan (Sealy), Stainrod, Allen, Currie, Gillard.

GRIMSBY (0) 0
SHEFFIELD WED (0) 1 (Curran) 13,110
Grimsby: Batch, Moore (D), Crombie, Waters, Wigginton, Moore (K), Brolly, Whymark, Drinkell, Mitchell, Cumming (Kilmore).
Sheff. Wed: Bolder, Blackhall, Grant, Smith, Shirtliff, Taylor, Megson, Mirocevic, Bannister, McCulloch, Curran.

LUTON (3) 4 (Moss 2 (2 pens), Stein 2)
WATFORD (0) 1 (Bolton) 12,839
Luton: Findlay, Stephens, Aizlewood, Horton, Saxby, Donaghy, Hill, Stein, White, Fuccillo, Moss.
Watford: Sherwood, Rice, Jackett, Taylor, Sims, Bolton, Callaghan, Jenkins (Poskett), Armstrong, Blissett, Barnes.

NEWCASTLE (0) 1 (Trewick)
ORIENT (0) 0 13,710
Newcastle: Carr, Brownlie, Davies, Trewick, Barton, Halliday, Shinton, Martin, Varadi, Wharton, Waddle.
Orient: Day, Hughton, Roffey, Taylor (T), Gray, Cunningham, Godfrey, Jennings, Moores, Margerrison, Silkman.

OLDHAM (0) 2 (Wylde, Heaton)
CAMBRIDGE (0) 0 4,549
Oldham: McDonnell, Sinclair, Ryan, Keegan, Hoolickin, Futcher, Wylde, Heaton, Steel, Palmer, McDonough.
Cambridge: Webster, Donaldson, Murray, Reilly, Fallon, O'Neill, Streete, Spriggs, Mayo, Gibbins, Finney.

ROTHERHAM (2) 2 (Green, Henson)
BOLTON (0) 0 6,998
Rotherham: Mountford, Forrest, Breckin, Green, Stancliffe, Hughes, Towner, Rhodes, Moore, Fern (Gooding), Henson.
Bolton: Peacock, Jones, Bennett, Henry, McElhinney, Gowling, Thompson, Carter, Hoggan, Cantello, Hebbard.

WREXHAM (0) 1 (McNeil pen)
CHARLTON (0) 0 3,076
Wrexham: Niedzwiecki, Jones, Bater, Dowman, Cegielski, Hunt, Fox, McNeil, Edwards, Vinter, Carrodus.
Charlton: Johns, Naylor, Ferns, Gritt, McAllister, Phillips, Elliott, Walsh, Hales, Lansdowne, Robinson.

Third Division

BRISTOL ROVERS (0) 0
LINCOLN (1) 2 (Cunningham, Cammack) 6,112

CARLISLE (0) 2 (Lee, Beardsley)
OXFORD (0) 1 (Shotton) 3,085

DONCASTER (0) 1 (Warboys)
BRENTFORD (0) 0 5,494

FULHAM (2) 2 (O'Driscoll, Lewington pen)
CHESTER (0) 0 3,629

GILLINGHAM (1) 2 (Bowman, Price)
EXETER (1) 3 (Lester (L), Roberts, Rodgers) 4,158

HUDDERSFIELD (2) 3 (Kindon pen, Robins, Kennedy pen)
SOUTHEND (1) 2 (Gray, Pountney) 7,254

MILLWALL (2) 4 (Chatterton, West, Bartley, Anderson)
BURNLEY (3) 3 (Laws, Potts, Overson) 4,877

NEWPORT (0) 1 (Gwyther)
PRESTON (0) 1 (Doyle) 5,064

PLYMOUTH (0) 0
CHESTERFIELD (0) 2 (Nisbett (og), Henderson) 3,451

PORTSMOUTH (1) 2 (Tait, Berry)
BRISTOL CITY (0) 0 10,203

SWINDON (0) 0
READING (1) 2 (Heale, Earles) 9,316

WALSALL (0) 1 (Penn)
WIMBLEDON (0) 0 3,027

Fourth Division

ALDERSHOT (2) 2 (Brodie, Sanford)
MANSFIELD (1) 3 (Burrows, Boam, Lumby) 2,486

BLACKPOOL (1) 3 (Bamber 2, Morris)
HULL (0) 1 (Mutrie) 4,838

BOURNEMOUTH (1) 1 (Dawtry)
ROCHDALE (0) 0 5,146

BURY (0) 2 (Johnson 2)
DARLINGTON (0) 0 2,562

HARTLEPOOL (1) 3 (Hampton 2, Houchen)
HALIFAX (2) 2 (Evans, McIlwraith) 1,800

NORTHAMPTON (1) 2 (Phillips 2)
HEREFORD (1) 3 (Bray, McGrellis, Dobson) 1,562

PETERBOROUGH (2) 3 (Cooke, Kellock, Hodgson)
CREWE (0) 0 3,775

PORT VALE (1) 1 (Moss)
STOCKPORT (0) 0 2,757

SHEFFIELD UTD (1) 1 (Kenworthy)
SCUNTHORPE (0) 0 11,687

TORQUAY (2) 3 (Larmour, Sermanni, Cooper)
YORK (2) 2 (Walwyn, Pollard) 2,853

TRANMERE (0)
WIGAN (0) 2,774

Scottish Premier

AIRDRIE (0) 0
ABERDEEN (3) 4 (MLeish, Weir 2, Hewitt) 3,000
Airdrie: Martin, Erwin, Rodger, Walker, McCluskey, McKeown, Flood, Campbell, MacGuire, Gordon, Anderson (N).
Aberdeen: Leighton, Kennedy, Rougvie, Watson, McLeish, Miller, Strachan, Cooper, McGhee, Hewitt, Weir.

CELTIC (0) 2 (Nicholas, Burns)
PARTICK (0) 0 15,200
Celtic: Bonner, McGrain (Moyes), Reid, Aitken, McAdam, MacLeod, Nicholas, Sullivan, McGarvey, Burns, McCluskey.
Partick: Rough, McKinnon (McDonald), Whittaker, Anderson, Dunlop, Lapsley, Park (O'Hara), Jardine, Clark, Doyle, Watson.

BIG MATCHES OF THE DAY

Sat, October 17th, 1981

ARSENAL v MAN. CITY

THERE have been some rousing games between these sides at Highbury. How many who will be there on Saturday remember that clash in October, 1956 when Cliff Holton hit four goals in a 7-3 Arsenal victory?

There was a much closer encounter in January, 1961 when Arsenal won with the odd goal in nine as David Herd scored a hat-trick.

City have won only twice at Highbury in their last 15 League visits, their latest victory being 3-2 in season 1975-76.

VILLA v WEST HAM

WEST HAM will be looking to tighten up their defence at Villa Park this Saturday for they have conceded four goals in each of their last three League visits.

Despite this The Hammers have enjoyed quite a good record at Villa Park, with eight wins and three draws in 22 League games, including three wins in a row in the mid 1960's.

The Londoners' finest performance at Villa Park was in April, 1927 when they scored five goals before Villa managed to get one.

EVERTON v IPSWICH

IT IS still less than three years since Ipswich gained their first League win at Goodison at the 14th attempt with a solitary goal by Paul Mariner. Since then they have won there 4-0 in February, 1980 and held the home side to a goalless draw last season.

In 16 games at Goodison, Everton have won six, Ipswich two, but eight have been drawn.

MAN. UTD. v BIRMINGHAM

THE vast majority of their 36 League clashes in Manchester have been closely contested affairs. Only twice have United succeeded in gaining anything like a runaway victory — in 1938-39, and again in 1960-61 when they won 4-1. On the more recent of those two occasions United scored all the goals — Mark Pearson two, Dennis Violet and Albert Quixall (pen) getting them in the right net, and Bill Foulkes putting one through his own goal.

Last January Joe Jordan and Lou Macari got United's goals in a 2-0 win.

SUNDERLAND v SPURS

IN THE early days Sunderland generally proved to be too strong for Spurs at Roker Park but there has been some change of fortune in recent years with Spurs suffering only two defeats in their last seven visits, in which they have won three times and drawn twice.

Last season's visit provided one of those draws (1-1).

Sunderland have not completed a League double over Spurs since 1955-56, while in the 11 seasons in which these clubs have met since then Spurs have three "doubles" to their credit.

'LEAVE STRIKERS ALONE —TO SCORE'

says Jimmy Greaves

Greaves (left) scores Tottenham's first goal in the 1962 F.A. Cup Final against Burnley.

THE last First Division club to reach 100 League goals in a season were Tottenham Hotspur in 1962-63, when Jimmy Greaves scored 37 and they finished runners-up to Everton. Spurs obtained 111 from their 42 matches, whereas the Champions, Everton, scored 84.

Eighteen years later a national newspaper is offering £50,000 for distribution among local schools and youth organisations as an incentive to the first club in the top flight to score 100.

The League ton is a huge total by today's standards. Aston Villa took the title last season with a mere 72 goals. Yet between 1956-57 and 1962-63 the feat was achieved no fewer than 14 times.

Manchester United and Spurs set the ball rolling in 1956-57 when, as Champions and runners-up respectively, they scored 103 and 104. Interestingly, the Old Trafford confrontation between the goalscoring giants that season ended in a goalless draw!

Wolverhampton Wanderers were the great goalscoring side of the next four years. They managed more than one hundred goals in each of the next four seasons, a total of 422. In that period they won the title twice, and also finished runners-up and third.

Centre-forward Bobby Smith's 29 goals provided the foundation for Spurs double success in season 1960-61. They achieved the highest post-War total of 115 goals, but the most remarkable figures that season were by Chelsea. Not only did they score 98 but they also conceded 100.

Their mid-table position relied on Jimmy Greaves who notched the biggest individual post-War total of 41 League goals.

Meagre

Solo goalscoring performances tell only one side of the story. In 1956-57 when Spurs got the first of their League tons while finishing runners-up to Manchester United, their top scorers, Smith and Alf Stokes, managed a relatively meagre 18 goals apiece.

How does Jimmy Greaves assess the current trend? "Goalscoring is a highly individual art.

"In my day, when 100 League goals were not uncommon, strikers used to set their sights on 30 goals in the season. Nowdays 20 is the target.

"I do not accept that modern players lack the ability to score goals. Players today are as good as they ever were. But a goalscorer should be left alone to do his natural job.

"I was talking to Stan Cullis, the former Wolves manager, the other day, and he reminded me of a bit of advice he gave me when in charge of the Football League side; I was only 19 at the time and I remember asking him;

"'Mr Cullis, do you want me to come back and help out the defence?'

"He said 'Look son I don't want to SEE you on our side of the halfway line!'

"It is the narrow-minded determination which strikers lack. Strikers should be left alone to concentrate on one thing — scoring goals."

West Bromwich Albion's powerful forward Cyrille Regis offers another explanation for the lack of goals.

Defences nowadays are much better organised. They've got it down to a fine art and the standard of goalkeeping is excellent.

"When I come up against a defender I know he has done his homework.

"Defenders have all the information to figure out the best way to 'play' an attacker. Sometimes you win and sometimes you lose.

'Encourage'

"I think that the new points system will encourage more goals, but to reach the ton you need four or five players to score 15 goals in a season and that is asking a lot."

First Division pace-makers West Ham set a challenging goalscoring standard with 15 goals in their first seven League games. We can only hope that other clubs will catch this scoring mood. It will need a club of outstanding attacking skills to reach that magical hundred goals in the current League season.

West Ham striker Paul Goddard nets against Stoke at Upton Park.

RECORD BREAKER JACKETT

CAN any teenage professional in the Football League match Kenny Jackett's record last season? He did not miss any of Watford's 42 League games — almost certainly the youngest ever-present in the game in his first full season as a League player.

"It was a start which gave me a lot of confidence," agrees Kenny, who reached his 19th birthday halfway through the campaign. He launched into 1980-81 with nothing more than a taste of first team football with just two League appearances: he ended it as one of football's most gifted newcomers.

Wales capped him at Under-21 level and he was in the senior squad on a couple of occasions. He made the recent trip to Prague for the Wales World Cup tie against Czechoslovakia and manager Mike England says: "He's one of the very best prospects I've seen for a long time."

Kenny looks set to become even more of a record breaker. Watford's most capped player is Gerry Armstrong, who joined the Hertfordshire club last season and added four more caps to his Northern Ireland tally: in the next couple of seasons, this Watford-born son of an ex-professional can establish himself in the Wales side and race past that figure.

His father, Frank, came from Swansea to play for Watford and Orient and Kenny says: "I'd love to win caps for the sake of my Dad. He has given me tremendous encouragement.

"I played quite a few different roles for Watford last season. Left-back, central defence and midfield. In the first few weeks of this season, I've played midfield and defence. It is all part of my football education and I'm just happy to be in the side.

"Whatever the boss, Graham Taylor, wants from me, I'll do my best to give him. It is an exciting time at Vicarage Road and we know people are talking about us as likely promotion contenders. The manager does not speak to us in those terms . . . but he is a man who knows what he wants!"

After his signings of experienced Northern Ireland internationals Pat Rice and Armstrong, the shrewd Taylor was one of the few managers who did not launch into the pre-season transfer market scramble. This confidence has been noted around football as a mark of confidence.

"We are certainly a settled side now," agrees Jackett. "There were quite a few changes in personnel last season with players being bought and transferred. Now it seems as if we are 'bedded down' — but we still have to make sure to go out there and prove it every week!

"As well as the players who've joined us, the manager has brought in youngsters such as myself and Nigel Callaghan who looks very sharp on the right wing or in midfield. Among ourselves, we feel that we have a pretty good blend of youth and experience."

Under Taylor, Watford have climbed to the highest peak of their 61 year League history: they finished a creditable ninth in the Second Division last season. "I signed as an apprentice a year after Mr Taylor had taken charge and it has been a tremendously challenging time," says Jackett.

"Graham Taylor is a great advocate of a youth policy and that is why Nigel, John Barnes and myself — as well as a few others who came in for occasional games during the 1980-81 season — have been given so much encouragement. All summer at Vicarage, he was working with young players. Now we are hoping to repay all his hard work."

'I'm not Stapleton's replacement'

insists JOHN HAWLEY

Welcome to Highbury! Hawley meets new Arsenal team-mate Kenny Sansom.

THE much-publicised £1 million transfer merry-go-round recently masked a relatively small deal which could ultimately shake 'money mad' First Division clubs back to reality.

The £50,000 move of John Hawley from Sunderland to Arsenal may seem unimportant when compared to recent seven-figure deals, but if the big 6 foot striker hits the goal trail, as many know he is capable of doing, then you can be certain some of Arsenal's opponents this season are going to catch a cold when playing The Gunners.

That's not wild speculation — just realistic comment backed by Hawley's impressive goal record over the past few seasons. Although his strike record at Hull City — 114 League appearances 22 goals — was not too impressive, his achievements for Leeds and Sunderland since then have been noteworthy.

He was top scorer with Leeds in 1978-79 when he banged 16 goals to help them to a UEFA Cup place and he scored 11 times in 25 League outings for Sunderland after his £200,000 transfer from Elland Road.

"I just hope I can continue to score with Arsenal. They have some excellent players and with people like Don Howe and Wilf Dixon on the coaching side I can only improve."

Arsenal, occasional big spenders themselves in the transfer market, surprised many people when they snapped up Hawley for a bargain fee soon after the departure of Frank Stapleton from Highbury to Old Trafford.

But Hawley is quick to point out he is no replacement for the Eire international striker. "I am just another player in the squad who has been bought to score goals. I have not come to Highbury to replace anyone, just to do a job."

Manager Terry Neill knows Hawley well enough to recognise the potential he still has, although he is now 27. The burly striker started at Hull, where Neill was player/manager.

Addition

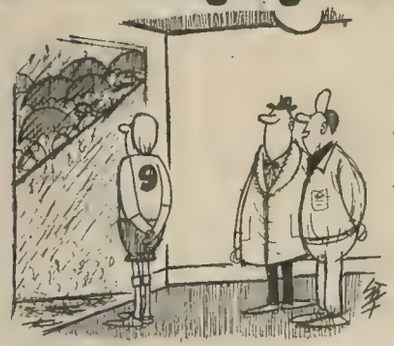
The Arsenal boss said: "John will be a very important addition to the squad at Highbury. He is quick-thinking and powerful in the air — and he has a good goal record in the First Division. Having been at Boothferry Park at the same time, I know his potential and I am optimistic he will do well."

Hawley is yet another capture from the North-East where The Gunners have previously plucked some famous names. The obvious one to spring to mind is Malcolm Macdonald, signed from Newcastle in 1976 for £300,000 and that master tactician of them all Charlie Buchan, who scored over 300 League goals for Sunderland before his transfer to Arsenal in the 1920's.

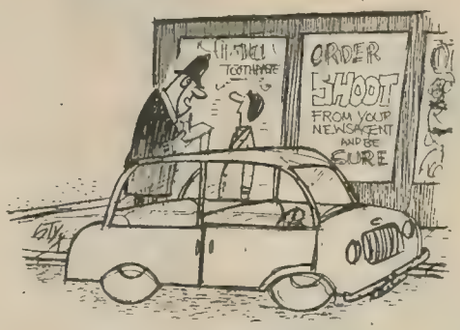
On their scouting links with the North-East, Neill said: "It is a good area for producing players of top quality. We have many contacts up there and we like to hear of players with quality and potential. John Hawley is just such a player."

FOOTBALL FUNNIES

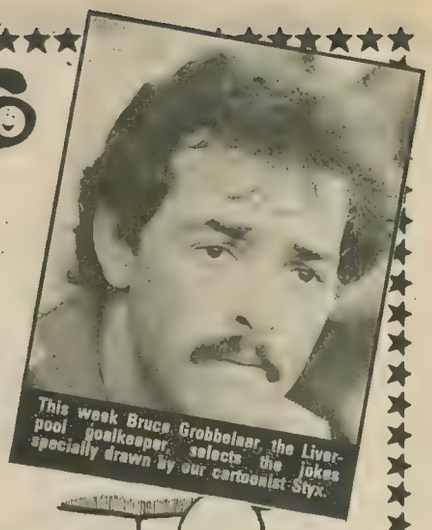
"I've bought you the latest Max Bygraves record — something to do with 'You Need Hands' . . ."



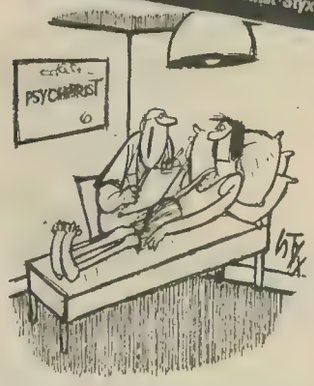
"But, boss, you can hardly expect a player worth two million quid to go out in the rain."



"I saw you play on Saturday. If only you could take corners like the one you just took."



This week Bruce Grobbelaar, the Liverpool goalkeeper, selects the jokes specially drawn by our cartoonist Styx.



"Apart from being dropped, suspended for three months, being refused a transfer and the row with the chairman . . . is there anything worrying you?"

KERR BLAST
'Why don't the international managers come to Grimsby?'

BATCH for England. Cumming for Scotland. Waters for the Republic of Ireland.

Don't laugh. The man who manages those three — George Kerr of Grimsby Town — is deadly serious.

"I have written to all the managers of the Home international countries recommending my players — with the exception of Wales," says Kerr.

Why has he left out Wales?

"Simply because we haven't got any Welshmen!"

Kerr has been annoyed at the lack of attention given to his club and his players despite their remarkable rise from the Fourth Division to near-top of the Second in three years.

"I don't think Grimsby can be on the map of most international managers. Certainly none has ever been here during my time at the club. It is a disgrace really because my players have proved themselves extremely capable and I think they are worthy of recognition."

Kerr admits that one day last year during a training session he called the players together and asked them: "Which of you thinks he is good enough to play for his country?"

The response was negative. Maybe they were afraid of being laughed at, maybe they didn't quite realise themselves just what they had achieved.

But now Kerr really has them believing in themselves.

Bob Cumming for example: "I would love to play for Scotland. I know I've got the ability, and coming up through the Divisions is probably a help because you realise how you have to work at the game week in and week out whether you're playing at Chester or Chelsea.

"Last season I scored 11 goals and it was nice to get off the mark so quickly with two in the first 20 minutes of my first match against Queens Park Rangers. If I can keep it up I hope Jock Stein may come and take a look at me."

Power

Easier said than done. Manager Kerr believes that because Grimsby are dubbed "unfashionable" people in power fight shy of going there.

"Maybe they've never had reason in the past, but international managers certainly seem to get to Crystal Palace, or Ipswich, Liverpool or Southampton much more easily than they do here.

"Grimsby is not really out of the way. With motorways opening up the country and good rail links, everywhere in Britain is reasonably accessible these days.

"I would certainly recommend Ron Greenwood to come and take a look at my goalkeeper. Nigel Batch is far and away the best in the Second Division at the moment, and I don't think there can be many better in the First.

"Nigel actually comes from Huddersfield, but we got him from Derby where he never really got a chance.

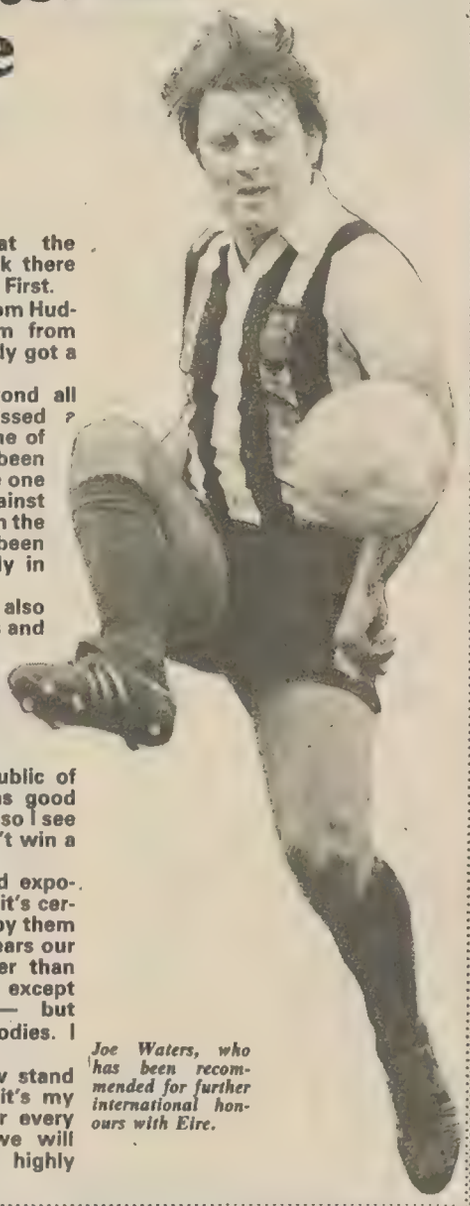
"He has improved beyond all measure and hasn't missed a match in three years. Some of his saves recently have been out-of-this-world. He made one in a Group Cup match against Sheffield United that was in the Banks-Pele class, and he's been doing that for us regularly in the past year.

"Bobby Cumming has also come on leaps and bounds and he is so good at defending, in addition to scoring goals, he certainly wouldn't let Scotland down.

"Joe Waters has actually played twice for the Republic of Ireland and he's in just as good form now as he was then, so I see no reason why he shouldn't win a recall.

"I think we've had good exposure in our own region — it's certainly not gone unnoticed by them that over the past three years our results are probably better than any club in the country, except maybe Swansea City — but nationally we're still nobodies. I can't understand it.

"We are building a new stand costing £1.2 million, and it's my ambition to see it full for every home match. I believe we will achieve that," says the highly ambitious Kerr.



Joe Waters, who has been recommended for further international honours with Eire.

YORK CAN ONLY GO UP

THE club with the best chance of making progress this season is York City.

After all, when you've finished 92nd in the Football League there's only one way to go — provided you're still in the League.

York were safely re-elected in June and now they're confident they can end this season at the other end of the Fourth Division.

Manager Barry Lyons, who admits that there were times last season when he might have been given his cards, believes there is very little to choose between any of the sides.

He acknowledges that he owes a debt to York chairman Michael Sinclair for showing faith in him where other chairmen would have wavered.

"He came out with the statement that he was not sacking me because I was still the same man he appointed at the beginning of the season, with the same credentials and capabilities.

"I am grateful to him for that and I realise I still have to produce the goods, but I have just as much belief in myself as I had before, and I see no reason why my assistant, Kevin Randall, and myself should not be successful here."

Actually York City are one of the few clubs with no problems at the bank. They have recently spent £50,000 on a new gymnasium, and without having much for the manager to spend, are at least in the black.

"Naturally as a football manager it is frustrating not to be able to go out and buy the players you want to improve the side," says Lyons.

"That is the policy of the board, however, and I can understand their feelings. After all, nobody likes losing money. And I have been told that if we are successful and go to the top of the Division I can have money to spend then.

"I think we have a better squad of players than we had last season, but at this level it's all about organisation and getting the players to work.

"We have some good pros like Eddie Blackburn the goalkeeper who's still only 24, Roy Kay, who was a snip from Celtic, Derek Craig from Darlington and Derek Hood, who came with Eddie from Hull.

"Obviously morale was low after last season, but I think we've lifted them off the floor, and winning the first two League matches of the season at Tranmere and at home to Northampton was a great fillip," says Lyons.

"I don't think we've flattered to deceive like we did last term and if we can keep on playing the way we've started we'll do all right," he said confidently.

'SHANKS! He was the greatest'

THE joy we felt after beating the Finns Oulun Palloseura failed to dispel the cloud of sorrow over Anfield at the loss of the man who symbolised the Liverpool spirit, the man who transformed us from an ordinary Second Division club into the most successful in Britain.

Bill Shankly's death threw the city into mourning. The man who had become a legend in his own lifetime had at last proved to be mortal like the rest of us.

Even though I'm the only present day Liverpool player who played under Bill, everybody at Anfield was shocked by his death.

When I was a young lad on the Kop we idolised 'Shanks'. He was like a football messiah.

He was the greatest manager in football,

Resigned

Shanks breathed life into Liverpool F.C. When he took over it was overshadowed by Everton, the so-called "School of Science", which we called the "millionaires' club". When he resigned in 1974 for personal reasons Liverpool had won the Second Division Championship, two First Division Championships, the F.A. Cup twice and the U.E.F.A. Cup, and put us firmly on course to go on to even greater things, such as two European Cups.

Not only was he a good picker of players, he knew how to motivate them, to send them out on the park really believing in themselves.

I can remember him now standing in the dressing-room addressing us after his usual scrutiny of the opposition as they arrived. "You should see their eyes," he'd say. "Like slits. They've obviously been out on the tiles. They're good time boys. Worn out. You'll take them apart."

It wasn't true, of course. But we believed him.

He could have given Freud lessons in psychology. Only Shanks could think of having a sign placed above the players' tunnel which reads: "This is Anfield", aimed at overawing visitors.

I first came into contact with the great man as a 15-year-old apprentice when I'd hang on to his every word in training.

The sessions always ended with a six or seven-a-side game between

PHIL THOMPSON
My soccer world

Shanks and his coaches, such as Bob Paisley and Joe Fagan; and us youngsters. At first I was appalled at the way they cheated, disallowing goals that were clearly over the line, calling "foul" after good tackles and catching us with quick free-kicks. They didn't know the meaning of fair play.

Looking back, I can see the main reason for it. We were being tested for character. Anyone whose head kept dropping, who sulked, was marked down as lacking the right qualities. You were expected to ignore the cheating and to keep playing flat out.

The other reason was simply down to the fact Shanks just couldn't bear to lose at anything, he was so competitive. The games were supposed to stop at 12 o'clock but Shanks wouldn't blow the final whistle until his side were at least one goal ahead.

Everyone has a favourite story about this larger than life football character. Mine dates from when I was around 19 and playing in the first team as a midfielder. We were due to play Arsenal at home on the Saturday in the League, and my heart hit my boots when I learnt the day before that I wasn't down to play.

Arsenal, our bogey team, beat us 2-0, with goals from Alan Ball and John Radford.

On the Monday I mustered all my courage, banged on the boss's door and asked why I had been dropped as I considered I had been playing well.

Shanks' reaction was completely unexpected.

"What?" he exploded. "You should be on your hands and knees *thanking* me. I spared you. That team on Saturday was a load of rubbish. You've got everything. You'll play for England one day."

I walked out feeling ten feet tall, still not knowing why he'd dropped me.

I was even more confused, though, later that week. He left me out of the team again!

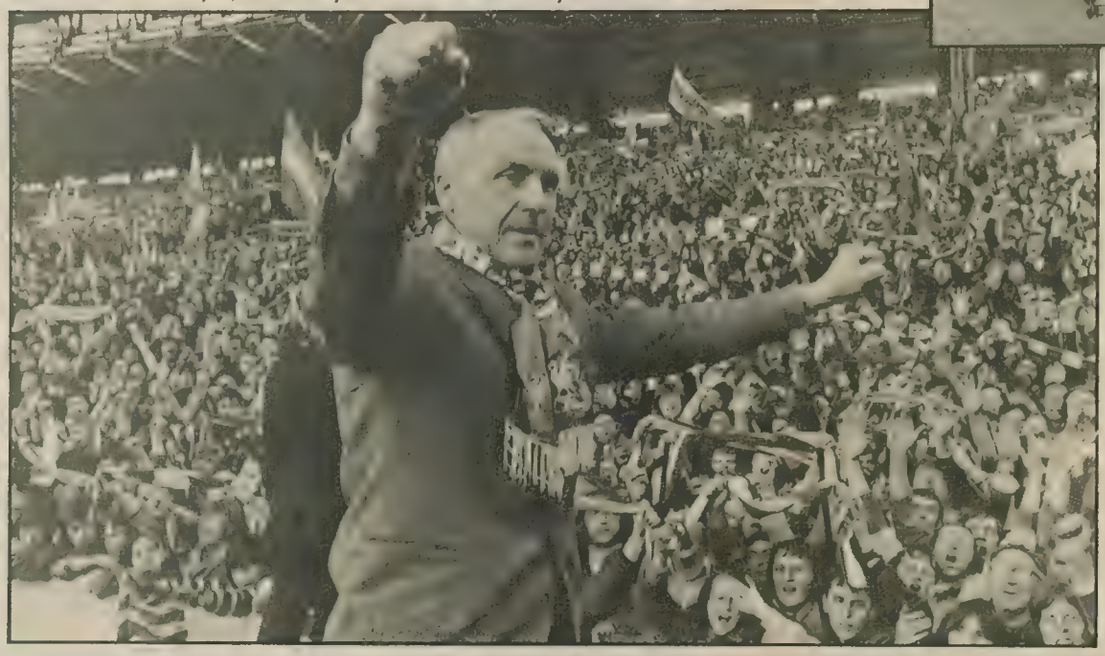
His departure from Anfield in 1974 was typical of the man. Probably the biggest surprise he'd ever sprung on us.

But he never forgot us. Just about every home game there he was, eyes bright, firing out his opinions, the centre of attraction.

He was always in demand, ready to help out clubs and players with his advice.

He'd often ring me at home. When I was left out of the England team to play Switzerland in Basle, he was on the line reassuring me, telling me how much the country needed me.

The late Bill Shankly parades the trophies won by his 60's team.



In all of us who knew him, the spirit of Shanks lives on. We'll never walk alone!

On Wednesday (October 21) we return to European Cup action when we tackle Dutch Champions AZ '67 in the Second Round.

It certainly helps our cause with the first-leg played in Holland. We much prefer it this way.

After Ipswich's clashes with them in the UEFA Cup Final last season, I am sure Bob Paisley will be contacting Bobby Robson for his impressions of them.

Needless to say we are all confident of progressing through.

Phil Thompson

PARTICK THISTLE

BACK ROW (left to right): Dave McKinnon, Iain Jardine, Tony Higgins, Frank Welsh, Ken Watson, Alex O'Hara.
MIDDLE ROW: John Lapsley, Joe Sweeney, Andy Anderson, Alan Rough, Donald McNab, Jackie Campbell, Brian Whittaker.
FRONT ROW: Peter Cormack (manager), Ian McDonald, Willie Gibson, Donald Park, George Clark, Jamie Doyle, Donnie McKinnon (trainer).

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

THE colour of Peter Cormack's face was not unlike the bright scarlet shirt he once wore with such distinction in his days as a Liverpool player in the 70's . . .

Cormack, who became manager of Partick Thistle last season, had just watched his team lose another vital League game and he said with venom: "This just isn't good enough.

"The players will have to show a lot more commitment. Maybe I've been making training too interesting for them since I took over.

"Possibly it wouldn't hurt if the players were really put through the mill and everyone worked up a sweat. Something will have to be done. Now . . . before it is too late."

Cormack, the youngest manager in the Premier Division at 35, has a whole load of problems on his hands at the moment as Thistle bounce from one defeat to another.

They lost their five opening League games and in a competition as tough as the Top Ten that is almost soccer suicide. An illustration of the club's wayward form this season was the 5-1 thrashing they received from First Division side Ayr United in the League Cup at Firhill.

"I was told some players came off the pitch that evening with a smile on their face," says Cormack.

"I'm just glad I didn't see them. Otherwise there is no way they would kick another ball for this club. I won't tolerate anything other than 100 per cent effort in every game."

International goalkeeper Alan Rough obviously doesn't fancy combining relegation with the possibility of playing in the World Cup Finals in Spain next year.

"I know we are far too good a side to go down," says Rough, "but we must make things happen rather than wait for them happening. We have got to prove our pedigree immediately.

"We're not nearly as bad as some of the results may indicate and I'm certain that things will come together once we get a couple of good wins under our belts.

"I've played in the Premier Division for the past five years and I have no notion of playing elsewhere."

Cormack has bought Andy Dunlop, a centre-back from St. Mirren for £30,000, and striker Willie Gibson, £35,000 from Hearts, as he seeks to strengthen his squad for the challenges that lie ahead.

"When I took over this club I said I thought we should be thinking about competing in Europe," says Cormack, who won two UEFA Cup medals with Liverpool.

"I haven't altered my plans. We've got a big job ahead of us, but if we play as I know we can and the players give their all we can start to climb to safety."

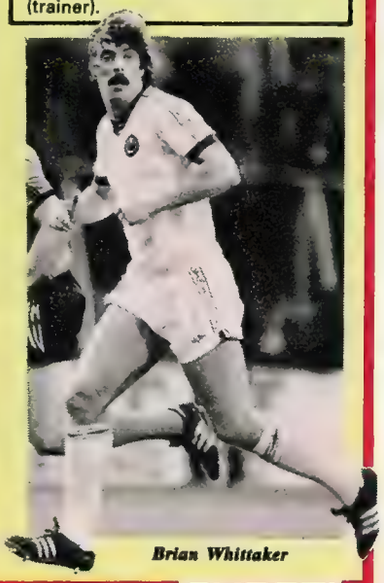
Cormack is used to the finer things in soccer. He started his career in the star-studded Hibs side of the 60's before signing for Nottm. Forest and then joining Liverpool for his happiest spell in football.

Then came a brief period with Bristol City before returning to Hibs as a player coach. Thistle gave him the platform to show his managerial talents.

Now Peter Cormack must prove that he is up to the job of Thistle boss . . . and quickly.

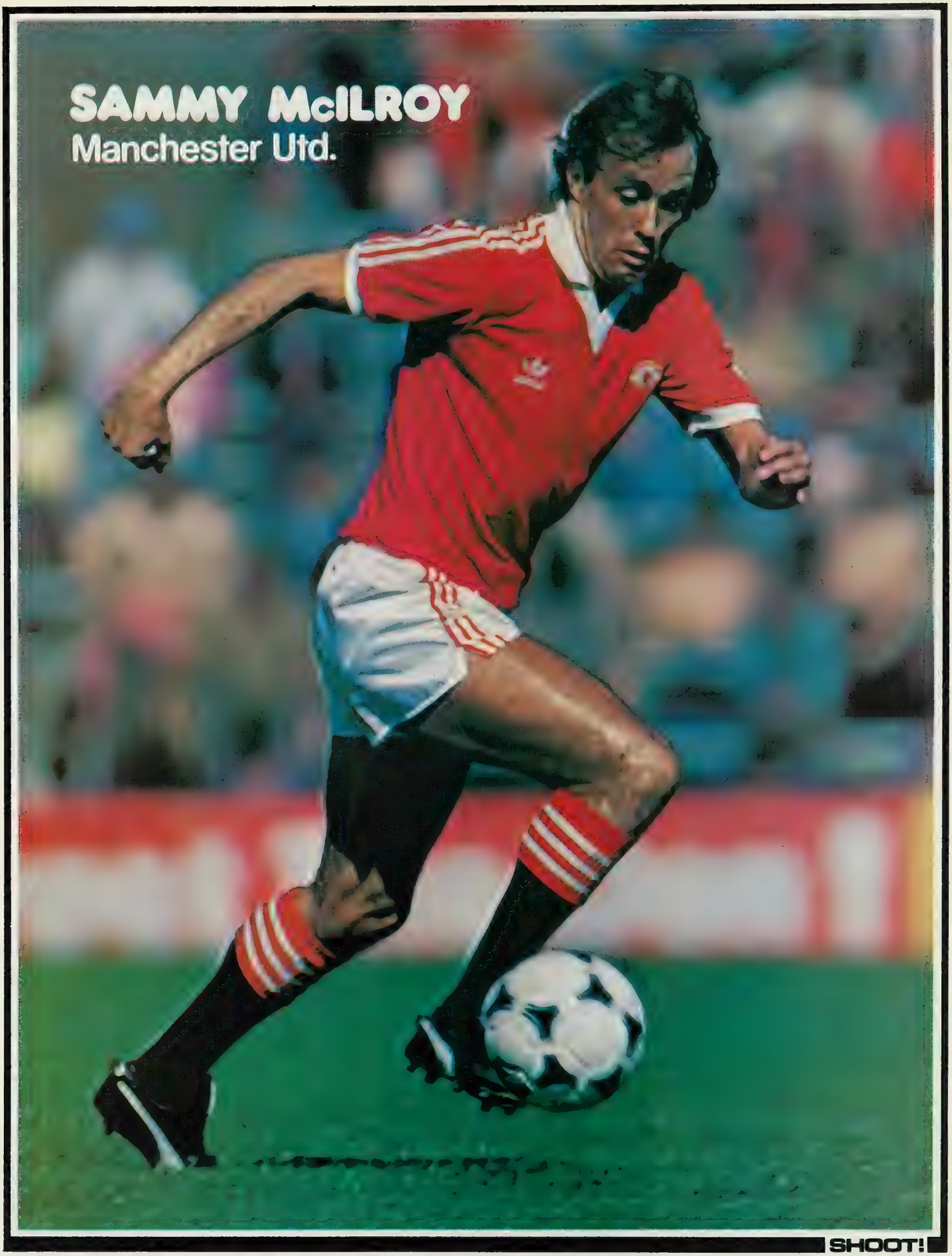
HONOURS:

Division One Champions: 1975-76.
Division Two Champions: 1896-97, 1899-1900, 1970-71.
Runners-up: 1901-02.
Scottish Cup winners: 1921.
Runners-up: 1930.
Scottish League Cup winners: 1971-72.
Runners-up: 1953-54, 1956-57, 1958-59.
Glasgow Cup winners: 1980-81.



Brian Whittaker

Manchester City's million-pound striker Trevor Francis is left on the seat of his pants by Birmingham full-back David Langan.


SAMMY McILROY
Manchester Utd.

ENGLAND TO LOSE EURO GAMES?

THE FRENCH are pretty optimistic that UEFA will choose France as the venue for the Finals of the European Championship in 1984, at the expense of applications from England and Yugoslavia.

The government has already drawn up plans to modernise six stadiums at Saint Etienne, Lens, Marseille, Strasbourg, Lyon and Nantes.

The big barrier between the French and UEFA approval (their decision will be announced on December 10th) is that the regulations concerning the European Championship Final insist it should be played in the *capital* of the host country.

And the Parc de Princes at Paris has a totally inadequate capacity of 48,000 (as many Liverpool fans disappointedly discovered when they tried for European Cup Final tickets).

However the French are aiming to sidestep UEFA rules by claiming that the Final can be played in Strasbourg "the capital of Europe".

Hmmmmm . . .

THE CONCACAF World Cup playoff group in Honduras starts on November 1st, with the hosts, Cuba, Haiti, Canada, El Salvador, and Mexico battling it out to see which two qualify for Spain. Here Honduras striker Junior Costly catches up with what's been happening on the other side of the world.

Refs attacked in World Cup venue

ALTHOUGH MOST attention is focused on the 1982 World Cup, Colombia, hosts of the '86 competition, are already coming under fire.

Many Colombians believe their country can't afford to stage the World Cup, but it's the current wave of violence on the field that's causing most concern right now.

Six referees have been attacked on the field during the past two months. Television viewers in Latin America had a close-up view of the official in charge of the Colombia/Peru World Cup tie being hit by a drunken fan who had staggered on the pitch.

In a youth game in Bogota a referee sustained three broken ribs after being hit by eight players. The eight players were all given long suspensions, but amazingly no criminal charges were brought.

Ironically the referee in question had spent four days in jail himself shortly before the incident for "resisting too strenuously" an assault by a fan during a game!

Sportsmanship is non-existent it seems. Ball boys are instructed to slow the game down to the home side's advantage whenever possible. At one match a penalty was awarded. After all the usual protests had been quietened the visiting player stepped up to take the spot-kick . . . only to see the ball fizzle out in mid-air and fall harmlessly into the goalkeeper's arms.

It had been punctured by a needle!

WORLD WIDE

Compiled by CHRIS DAVIES

DURING the Strasbourg-Paris St. Germain game in the French League, home midfielder Lacquesta was sent-off after an incident with his opposite number Boubacar.

The Parisian's version of the incident was "after a tackle Lacuesta jumped up and came over to me with the intention of butting me. So I butted him back first."

Please be polite

THE People's Republic of China's World Cup bid is under way in the Oceania playoff group and before their first game in Peking the president of the Chinese Football Federation had this advice for fans.

"Respect the five recommendations — civility, politeness, public hygiene, discipline and morality — and the four beauties — of the spirit, language, behaviour and the environment — and mind your good manners," he said.

TV WAR

OPEN WAR has broken out in Portugal between the State TV and the clubs.

The F.A. has a TV contract to allow the screening of three minutes of highlights from any First Division game, screened in England long after the games, on Sunday evenings. But FC Porto are leading the revolt by banning the cameras altogether.

Now Portuguese TV have responded by showing full length films of foreign games in their library at exactly the kick off times each Sunday!

Soccer slump in Uruguay

URUGUAY'S PLUNGE from the euphoria of the Copa de Oro triumph to the humiliation of the World Cup elimination by Peru has left the country's football in tatters, and the national team has been completely disbanded — which in turn means that the players previously on the list of 'untransferables' are now free to leave the country.

What's more, there's such a mood of depression that the national team (below) will play no more games at all in 1981, and it's unlikely that they'll play more than one game in 1982 — a fixture already arranged in France.

When Uruguay, World Cup winners in 1930 and 1950, re-emerge on the international scene, it'll almost certainly be with a new manager and a lot of new names on the team-sheet.

AN AWFUL LOT OF FOOTBALL IN BRAZIL

ZICO has spoken out against what he calls "too many games" for Brazilian players.

"We have to play 72 games a year for our clubs, not including those we play for the Brazilian team. If you don't count the month for vacations, that makes more than 6.5 games per month — again not counting the Brazilian team," he says.

"But," continues Zico (left) "if you take into account the period for training with the Brazilian Team for the World Cup qualifying games and for the World Cup itself, you end up by playing three or four times a week.

"Throw in all the long trips and you will find yourself with no time for rest or for your family."

Zico, who outplayed Maradona recently in a friendly in which Flamengo beat Boca Juniors 2-0 (both goals scored by him), then scored four against the League of Ireland.

JOACHIM WIECZOREK, one of the substitutes in the squad of Polish side Szombiersky Bytom, has disappeared.

He travelled to Rotterdam for the club's UEFA Cup game against Feyenoord; sat on the bench throughout the match; announced he was going to the toilets at the end of the game . . . and disappeared. He is believed to have asked for political asylum.

News flashes

● "Joe Jordan has now adapted perfectly to our style of play," says AC Milan Vice Chairman Gianni Rivera, "and while we cannot hope to be Champions with what is essentially a young team, I expect to earn a place in the UEFA Cup this season."

● Dino Zoff, the Juventus goalkeeper, is the oldest man playing in Italy's Serie A (First Division) this season and will be 40 on 28th February next. Second oldest is Franco Superchi of AS Roma . . . a mere 37 last month.

● Franz Beckenbauer is now hopeful of playing again soon, without a groin operation. After four weeks complete rest he began walking seven miles a day for two weeks before rejoining the Hamburger SV squad for light training.

IF SPANISH Press reports are anything to go by, Second Division Real Oviedo have just set a new world record attendance figure.

The report on their 1-0 home win against Rayo Vallecano begins: "Quite a good crowd (more than a million) even though World Cup work meant part of the terraces were not in use".

When the stadium's finished, maybe they'll get a million and a half . . !

IN URUGUAY CERRO Colorado recently bought two new players, without paying a single peso.

They obtained the services of Sergio Campi and Marcos Ocholoeguy in exchange for . . . a cow.

Presumably they didn't want to milk their bank account.

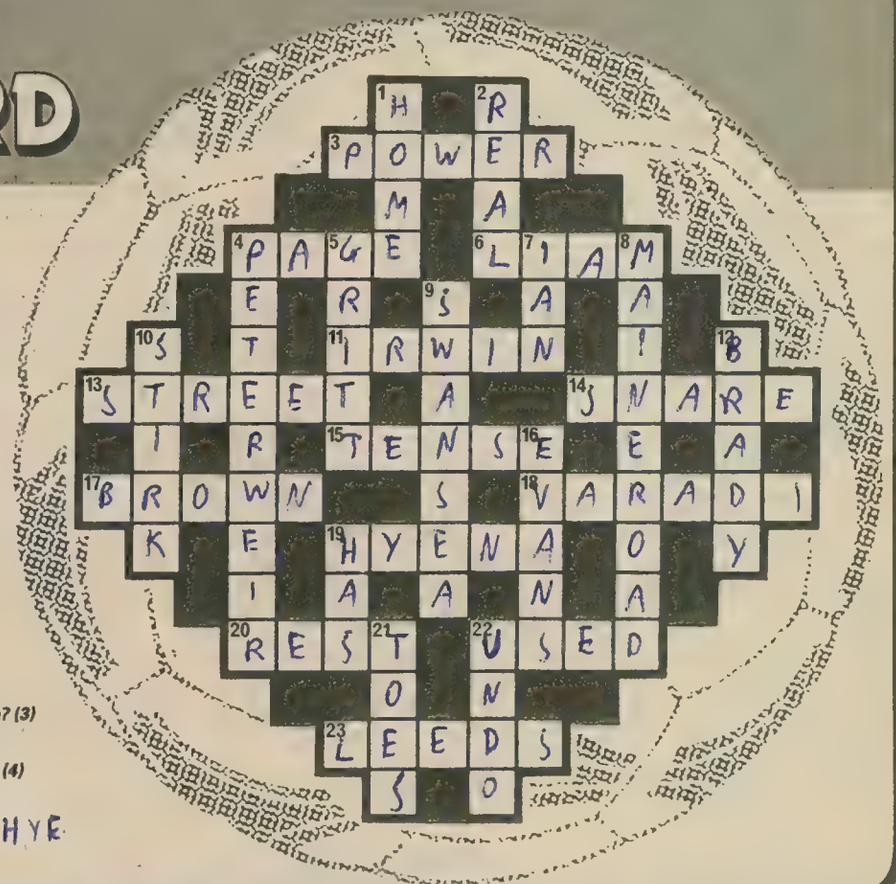
On the ball CROSSWORD

ACROSS:—

(3) Paul —, Manchester City midfield player. (5)
(4) Malcolm —; former Wales and Birmingham defender. (4)
(6 & 12 Down) Republic of Ireland international. (4)
(11) Colin —, new defender for 9 Down. (5)
(13) Love —; ground of St Mirren. (6)
(14) 'Trap' from five letters found in Arsenal. (5)
(15) Strained or highly strung . . . as before an important game. (5)
(17) Alan —, Sunderland striker. (5)
(18) Imre —, Newcastle striker. (6)
(18) An animal from the initial letters of York, Hull, Aldershot, Norwich and Exeter (unscrambled). (5)
(20) Take a break from exertion. (4)
(22) Employed. (4)
(23) — United. "The Peacocks" from Elland Road. (5)

DOWN:—

(1) — Farm; League of Ireland club (manager: Dave Bacuzzi). (4)
(2) — Sociedad; Spanish European Cup club. (4)
(4) Player transferred from St Mirren to Aberdeen for a Scottish record fee of £330,000. (5,4)
(5) Steve —, Charlton midfield player. (5)
(7) — Scanlon recently joined St Mirren from Aberdeen for £100,000. (3)
(8) Manchester City's famous ground. (5,4)
(9) — City, whose manager is John Toshack. (7)
(10) John —, Chesterfield defender. (5)
(12) See 6 Across. (5)
(16) Ray —, Stoke City defender. (5)
(19) If Coventry, Liverpool & Albion Rovers make "OIL"; what do Chelsea, Cardiff & Aston Villa make? (3)
(21) Remove one letter from STOKE and make the remainder into foot parts. (4)
(22) Open. (4)



ANSWERS ON PAGE 44.

WHERE ARE THE YOUNG SCOTTISH 'KEEPERS?

FOR years the Achilles heel of the Scottish international side has been the last line of defence — the goalkeeper.

Today, however, there is the healthy rivalry of Partick Thistle's Alan Rough and St. Mirren's Billy Thomson for the coveted number one shirt and that so important position looks safe in the near future.

But, looking beyond Rough, Thomson and present third choice 'keeper Jim Leighton, there is little doubt that international manager Jock Stein has a real headache looking for up-and-coming Scots.

When Stein named his Under-21 squad for the European-tie against Sweden at Easter Road his two goalkeepers were Dundee's Bobby Geddes and Hearts' John Brough.

Geddes had just returned to the first team a game or so before the pool was announced and Brough was actually still in the reserves.

Quite simply, Stein had little option but to pull in Geddes and Brough. There were no other goalkeepers available to him and he couldn't afford the luxury of utilising an over-age player.

Making things even more strange was the fact that Geddes had just got married and should have been on his honeymoon when the game against Sweden was being played. He thought, clearly, he had no chance of getting an international call-up.

"Yes, I was certainly surprised," admits the young Highlander who came into the Dundee first team only last season to replace veteran Ally Donaldson.

"I was out of the first team at the start of the term with Alan Blair in goal for Dundee and I was more concerned about playing for my club than my country.

"But the call-up gave my confidence a great boost and I was happy to keep a clean sheet as we won 4-0."

And what about Brough?

"I played for the Under-21 side against Denmark at Pittodrie last year and enjoyed the experience very much," he says, "but I realise my international days are numbered unless I can force my way back into the top team at Tynecastle.

"Henry Smith took my place at the start of the programme, but, like Bobby Geddes, just being called up into the international scheme of things has given me a gee up. Now I hope to take it from there."

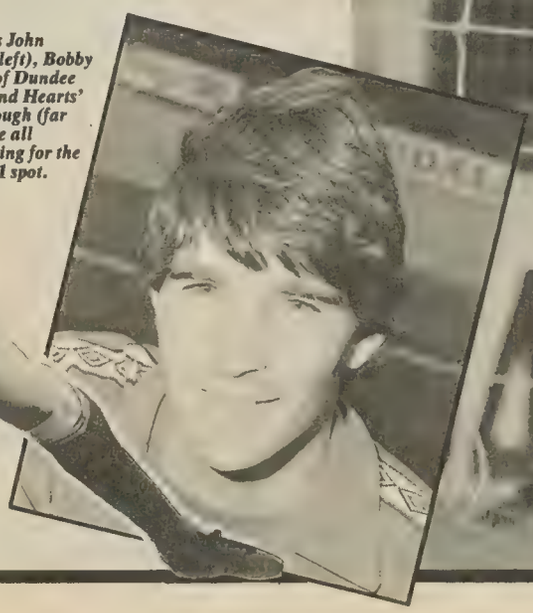
Headache

The most exciting young 'keeper in the Premier Division at the moment is undoubtedly the elastic-limbed Pat Bonner, of Champions Celtic, but, of course, he can't ease Stein's headache . . . he is Irish and has already been capped at full international level by the Republic of Ireland.

What about the other Top Ten sides? Taking away Rough (Partick Thistle), Thomson (St. Mirren), Leighton (Aberdeen), Geddes (Dundee) and Bonner (Celtic) that leaves five others . . . and one of them is Morton's Roy Baines, who is English.

Jim Stewart, of Rangers, has attracted Stein's eye despite an early injury, but he, too, is over age. Dundee United's Hamish McAlpine is in the veteran category while Hib's double-act of Ally Donaldson and Jim McArthur are unlikely to get the call.

That brings it down to Airdrie's John Martin and it could be that the youngster who attracted the attention of Liverpool last season could be the 'keeper to emerge as the answer to the problem.



Airdrie's John Martin (left), Bobby Geddes of Dundee (right) and Hearts' John Brough (far right) are all challenging for the Under-21 spot.

GOOD NEWS
Palace want it... Walsh and Langley can bring it

SUCCESS comes in pairs; "Nine times out of ten, a side at the top of its form has a strike force partnership hunting together," says Crystal Palace centre-forward Ian Walsh.

That is why the linking of Walsh with Tommy Langley by Selhurst Park manager Dario Gradi has fired supporters with the prospect of an immediate return to the First Division. "We dearly want to get back. That would be the finest way of all to show the character of the lads," says Walsh.

"We were desperately disappointed with the way we left the First Division. We didn't score goals up front; we conceded them at the back. All that going wrong on the pitch plus that incredible spell of having four managers plus boardroom splits made it a terrible year.

"Now all that is well behind us. There is an outstanding spirit at the club and the manager has made two vital signings: Steve Wicks to keep the defence together and Tommy to go in with me at the front.

"We have hit it off from the start. Our styles suit each other — neither of us looking to hit the headlines as individuals but working together for the goals that will make Palace promotion prospects. We talk a great deal about our strengths and weaknesses: I'm certain that, the longer the season goes on, the better we will dovetail together."

Ian Walsh and Tommy Langley (inset) can bring success back to Crystal Palace.

Palace boomed out the message of on-the-way-back when they beat South London rivals Charlton 2-0 in front of television millions. Walsh scored both goals, a brilliant shot on the turn from 20 yards followed by a perfectly timed running header.

"It was good for me that those goals were seen on television — but it was even better for the club," says Wales striker Walsh. "The one thing we need at Palace now is some good publicity. We had enough of the other kind with all last season's troubles.

"The lads are very conscious of the need to have some good news reported from Selhurst Park and the win over Charlton got the message across at the ideal time. I think we know that another dose of bad 'image' would set us back . . . so to have that game on television was an extra boost."

Walsh himself has been in the headlines more than once during the Palace upheavals. "I think I've made three or four transfer requests now," he admits, "but that, too, has to be relegated into history. It's up to me to prove myself from now on.

"There is just one way to do it — keep on scoring as I did against Charlton. When all is said and done, it is the only answer that counts.

"I thought that my consistent goalscoring record for Wales would bring in pre-season bids, but only Swansea City put in an offer and the Palace board wouldn't accept it. From that point on, I was determined to hold my Palace place by hitting the target.

"My troubles were really the club's troubles. Managers came and went; tactical policies came and went; my place in the first team came and went. All I was looking for was a regular first team place somewhere. Hopefully Dario Gradi will now give me regular football at Palace.

'Inflation'

"That is why the signing of Tommy could not have come at a better moment. Suddenly I have a partner I can work with and stay with. With a player of Vince Hilaire's skills to pop up in the forward position, too, there is a real prospect that Palace's 'goals for' column is going to receive some sharp inflation.

"I know that the special something that has 'clicked' between us brought out the best in me . . . just as I think it has with Tommy."

'Frank's the new king of Old Trafford'

THE Stretford End has a new king — Frank Stapleton. When Joe Jordan 'abdicated' after joining AC Milan this summer, Old Trafford was looking for a new idol and one was quickly found.

I'm not surprised — just as I haven't been surprised that Frank has settled down with the minimum of fuss or trouble. He's class, sheer class, a super player. I'm sure if you asked every First Division player who is the most complete striker in the League, Frank would be top of the list.

Our crowd love him . . . his courage, aggression, his goals and the killer instinct is the hallmark of a great goalscorer.

Frank's a bit like Remi Moses in that off the park they're both very quiet — but once in a red shirt on the field they assume almost different personalities.

Remi is like a mouse, he hardly says a word. When he arrived I tried to make him feel at home by having a chat, which went something like this:

"Did you have a house in West Bromwich?"

"No."

JOHN GIDMAN

RAY WILKINS Writes for you

"Are you looking for one in Manchester?"

"No."

"Are you settling in well?"

"Yes."

That's Remi. He prefers to do his talking on the pitch and he's certainly done that.

Earlier this season Ron Atkinson said we looked a good side with the ball, but we were having trouble getting it. Remi's arrival gave us a little more bite in the midst of the park and it's given me the inspiration to win a few more tackles, too.

I wouldn't call Remi of Bryan Robson 'ball-winners'. I don't like the phrase. I'd say they were players who impose themselves on the game rather than ball-winners, which implies all they do is tackle.

Graeme Souness at Liverpool puts himself about . . . imposing himself on the match and the opposition. I think the new United midfield will combine the qualities necessary in that department.

I know I've come in for heavy criticism and as soon as Bryan Robson was rumoured to be coming to Old Trafford I was, it seemed, the people's favourite to go.

Even George Best chipped in with a few harsh words, saying I never got over the halfway line or passed the ball forward. Everyone's entitled to their own opinion and I'm not getting into a slanging match.

I found myself in an awkward situation, because Ron Atkinson told me to hang back, to 'hold' the midfield, playing the role everybody enjoys criticising me for.

Yet the manager was pleased when I reverted back to this position from a more adventurous role and as a player I obviously value the manager's opinion more than anyone else's.

I know Bryan from England trips and my attitude from the start has been that whoever arrives at Old Trafford I'll look forward to playing alongside.

He's a tremendous player, the type who would improve any side. I remember chatting to him on the summer tour about Ron Atkinson — little did we realise then . . . !

John Gidman has also slotted in nicely. United have a tradition of attacking full-backs and Giddy is in this mould. He's always involved in the game, always available if you're in trouble.

Accident

Four or five years ago it looked as if John would establish himself as the top full-back in England. I think the accident he had with a firework has hindered him and he tells me that he still has trouble with his right eye in sighting high balls.

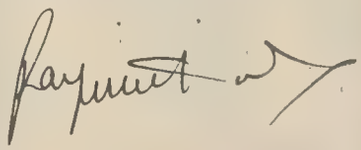
The First Division hasn't quite sorted itself out yet, although I've been pleased to see West Ham near the top. Even my wife, Jackie, remarked the other week when watching them how their players seem to really enjoy playing . . . you can see it in their faces and how they go about their job.

Season ticket holders at Upton Park are guaranteed goals, either by The Hammers or the opposition, but outstanding games are not a rarity in East London.

Manchester United fans, like all others, expect instant success when a few new faces are drafted in. United have climbed the table steadily after being bottom at one stage, yet the side hasn't really been in top gear apart from our game against Wolves.

Once the team builds up a proper understanding I feel the supporters will get what they want: success with entertainment.

Join me again in a fortnight.



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TAKE A BREAK IT'S QUIZ TIME

GOALKEEPERS

1. Ipswich Town's John Jackson has played for three London League clubs . . . can you name them?
2. Was Gary Bailey (below) or Alex Stepney in goal for Manchester United when they beat Liverpool 2-1 in the 1977 F.A. Cup Final at Wembley?
3. Who was the last goalkeeper to win the Football Writers' Footballer of the Year award?
4. You should all know Alan Rough is Scotland's most capped goalkeeper. Which distinguished number one held the record before the Partick Thistle man?
5. Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar has played international football for which country?

COMPUTER PUZZLE

Ian Wallace

Programme this star player by plugging the gaps in his career.

1. Ian Wallace began his League career in Scotland with —.
2. After 34 games and 11 goals he was transferred to —.
3. During the summer of 1980 Brian Clough splashed out £— to bring the striker to Nottingham Forest.
4. He scored his first hat-trick of the season in a First Division game against —.
5. He made a goalscoring debut for Scotland when he came on as a substitute for Kenny Dalglish in a match against — in February, 1978.

Computer performance rating: 5 Superb; 4 Excellent; 3 Good.

JUMBLED MANAGERS

Re-arrange the jumbled letters to find the names of some of Britain's top managers and their clubs.

1. NROUNSSDREA (TNSAOLIVAL)
2. KMEIIYBELA (ORNTBHIG)
3. XLEARNUSFEOG (EEEDNRAB)
4. NLAAUANRBD (LADDNRSEUN)
5. YLILBcLLMINE (CLECTI)
6. NOHJAYLLL (SWTEMHA)
7. NROENINLELA (TSWEMOBR)
8. NYBENOYNEOR (OOTMNR)
9. WDARHOLNAEDLK (EOERVNT)
10. LAALNEACKLR (ESEDLDIUTEN)

BRITAIN IN EUROPE

The First round second-leg games in the three European Cup competitions were played recently. See if you can answer the following questions about the matches.

1. Aberdeen produced one of the best displays when they knocked out holders Ipswich Town 4-2 on aggregate. Which Aberdeen player scored one penalty and then missed another with the last kick of the game?
2. Brian Talbot, Brian McDermott or Graham Rix scored Arsenal's goal in their 1-0 win against Panathinaikos at Highbury?
3. Apart from being one of seven goals, what was so significant about Terry McDermott's (above, dark strip) first for Liverpool against Oulun from Finland?
4. WBA were eliminated on a 2-1, 3-1 or 4-1 aggregate score by Grasshoppers?
5. Which Swansea City star was sent off against Lokomotiv Leipzig during the 2-1 defeat in East Germany?

GROUNDS

1. Was Old Trafford or Maine Road used to stage the 1969-70 F.A. Cup Final replay between Chelsea and Leeds United, which the London club won 2-1?
2. Which Scottish club has its ground situated in England?
3. Springfield Park is the home ground of which Fourth Division club?
4. Where do (a) York City, (b) Portsmouth and (c) Grimsby Town play their home games?
5. Where was the 1980 European Cup Final between Nottingham Forest and Hamburger SV played?

ON THE BALL CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: (3) Power. (4) Page. (6) Liam. (11) Irwin. (13) Street. (14) Snare. (15) Tense. (17) Brown. (18) Varadi. (19) Hyena. (20) Rest. (22) Used. (23) Leeds.
DOWN: (1) Home. (2) Real. (4) Peter Weir. (5) Gritt. (7) Ian. (8) Maine Road. (9) Swansea. (10) Stirk. (12) Brady. (16) Evans. (19) Has. (21) Toes. (22) Undo.

ANSWERS:

GOALKEEPERS. 1. Millwall, Orient and Crystal Palace. 2. Stepney. 3. Pat Jennings. 4. Former Tottenham Keeper Bill Brown. 5. Rhodesia.

JUMBLED MANAGERS. 1. Ron Saunders (Aston Villa). 2. Mike Bailey (Brighton). 3. Alex Ferguson (Aberdeen). 4. Alan Durban (Sunderland). 5. Billy McNeill (Celtic). 6. John Lyall (West Ham). 7. Ronnie Allen (West Brom). 8. Benny Rooney (Morton). 9. Howard Kendall (Everton). 10. Allan Clarke (Leeds United).

BRITAIN IN EUROPE. 1. Gordon Strachan. 2. Talbot. 3. It was Liverpool's 100th in the European Cup. 4. 4-1. 5. Alan Curtis.

GROUNDS. 1. Old Trafford. 2. Berwick. 3. Wigan Athletic. 4. (a) Bootham Crescent, (b) Fratton Park, (c) Blundell Park. 5. Bernabeu Stadium, home of Real Madrid.

COMPUTER PUZZLE. 1. Dumbarton. 2. Coventry City. 3. £1 million. 4. Birmingham. 5. Bulgaria.

'DANGERS FACING THE HAMMERS'

GARY SHAW
Soccer as I see it

AFTER scoring one of the goals in Villa's European Cup First Round first leg 5-0 trouncing of Valur, Tony Morley was dropped for the return in Reykjavik . . . to make room for me!

My two goals for the reserves at Preston a few days before had proved I'd recovered from the painful foot injury which had kept me out of action for so long.

Unfortunately, poor Tony was the one Ron Saunders decided to sacrifice so I could link up with Peter Withe for the first time this season.

Tony was the first to agree his performances so far haven't touched his usual devastating form. I'm sure he will be back to his best soon.

Naturally I was sorry for Tony, but glad to be back in the first team especially as it was my debut in European Cup football.

And what a debut, scoring both goals in our 2-0 win. It wasn't a great Villa performance, but not bad, either considering we had to contend with an Arctic gale, the stench of rotting fish from a nearby factory and a pitch with more holes and ruts than my local rubbish tip.

Reminder

But all credit to the amateurs of Valur who offered stern resistance.

It's ironic the day Villa landed in Iceland Bill Shankly died. As Ron Saunders sadly reminded us it was where it all began for Liverpool in Europe 17 years ago. A look at the record books will tell you in August, 1964 they beat Reykjavik 5-0 and have been involved in European competition ever since.

Thank goodness Villa avoided Liverpool in the Second Round of the European Cup. We'll save them up for the Final.

As you know our opponents are Dynamo Berlin.

I was in action against some of their players when Villa beat the East German national side 4-2 in our pre-season build-up.

In fact, I only played the first-half at Villa Park. I came off injured and missed the start of the season.

I don't know much about Dynamo Berlin, but if they play like their national team they'll be powerful, especially up front, but lacking style.

Obviously they'll be tough opponents, but at least Villa have the advantage of playing the second-leg at Villa Park.

A few days after our Euro-tie Villa are at home to one of the surprise packets of the season . . . West Ham.

No one in the game expected to see them go straight to the top of the First Division even though they won the Second Division title in real style.

Mind you I thought they'd do reasonably well. Let's face it, West Ham weren't out of the big League long enough to lose their First Division edge.

West Ham's secret this season is a settled team and a steel which manager John Lyall has added to the fluent skills of Trevor Brooking and Alan Devonshire.

Like most people I enjoy watching West Ham and respect them for standing by their beliefs in providing entertaining football whatever their situation.

When they were relegated in 1977-78 they went down trying to play football. If they had changed to a more defensive style they might have saved themselves.

West Ham's two big dangers are injuries and the heavy grounds. Like Villa they haven't really got too much strength in depth and could well suffer if they lose one or two key players at a crucial period.

The muddy grounds of January and February will also slow down The Hammers. They won't be able to play their one touch fancy football in those conditions, especially around the box.

Several critics have wondered about their ability to survive because of the number of veteran players they have in the side. 'Veterans' . . . I hate that word. I prefer to call players aged 30 and over experienced.

Anyhow, how can you criticise the likes of Billy Bonds, Frank Lampard and Tevor Brooking, all of whom are over 30. Where will you find players with as much experience and dedication?

I'd enjoy playing for West Ham. They play to a striker's feet, not hitting too many long balls. I'm sure I'd get lots of goals playing off players such as David Cross and Paul Goddard.

My Under-21 colleague Paul Goddard is a natural goalscorer . . . just like Jimmy Greaves.

Paul wasn't with West Ham the last time they played Villa. That was in 1979-80 at Upton Park when they won 1-0 to knock us out of the Sixth Round of the F.A. Cup.

I didn't play but watched from the stands.

I certainly hope to be in action this Saturday, though, and help Villa avenge that defeat. Whatever the result it's sure to be a cracker.

There are few players with more dedication than Trevor Brooking (left).

West Ham (dark shirts) have proved the surprise packet of the season so far.

MURDOCH MISERY

BOBBY Murdoch is under no illusions about what must be done to ensure that Middlesbrough enjoy a successful season.

"We must buy," he said: "There are no two ways about it. I must strengthen my squad, and soon."

The straight-talking Scot is in his second spell with Boro. He spent three and a half years at Ayresome Park as a player, adding his midfield passing skills and driving leadership in much the same way as he did during Celtic's incomparable reign over Scotland and Europe.

But replacing John Neal as manager is another matter. Murdoch has inherited a tough situation, one where three of the club's most influential players have been sold, the fans are demanding long overdue success and a whole new side needs to be built.

Not that Murdoch is short of cash. Far from it. The transfers of Craig Johnston to Liverpool, David Armstrong to Southampton and Mark Proctor to Nottingham Forest have left the Ayresome coffers in a healthier state than for many a season.

Ironically, this very situation, and everyone else's knowledge of it, is as big a problem to Murdoch as is finding the players he wants to avoid a winter of discontent.

He explained: "A lot of managers are signing players from foreign clubs. And the reason is that League clubs ask too much. You also have to be careful about the salary structure.

'Resentment'

"It can arise that some players are on better money than others and this can cause resentment in the squad.

"I believe that we are charging inflated prices and this will do the game harm in the long run.

"Clubs know I have money to spend so I know that when I ask about a player there is a danger that I will find my offer for him refused and the asking price almost doubled.

Murdoch is quick to point out that he is not fault-finding with any one club, nor is he lacking in faith with his current players.

"I have a new-look side at the moment. Injuries have forced me to name some line-ups that I would not usually select and some of the lads are playing together for the first time. But I also know that we need more strength in depth.

"I am finding this job hard to be perfectly honest. But it is also a challenge. I believe we can really achieve something in the long term.

"I spend most of my time at the moment talking to other managers. They have similar problems with the transfer market. Who doesn't?"

Murdoch has won more trophies than any player in Middlesbrough's long history. The European Cup with Celtic in 1967, countless Scottish League Championship medals, Scottish F.A. Cup medals and League Cup medals. He won 12 caps for Scotland, is a living legend North of the border and, in a nutshell, is a born winner.

By comparison Boro's history — the F.A. Amateur Cup and a few triumphs in Division Two apart — is bleak. Murdoch is the type of character they need, a fighter who knows how to achieve success . . . and how to handle it.

But first he must strengthen that squad. Already he has signed Joe Bolton, Heine Otto, Mick Baxter and Bobby Thomson, but others will soon be on their way to Ayresome.

"I have a couple of irons in the fire at the moment. I am not rushing into anything, but I know what we need and I am determined to get it."

Defender Mick Baxter cost Murdoch £425,000 when he signed from Preston.

Craig Johnston, (far right) another Middlesbrough graduate who is now at Liverpool. He left before Murdoch (left) took charge.

David Armstrong, who left in the summer for Southampton.

DEFENDER CROSS!

'I musn't forget my other duties' says West Ham's goal-ace

GOALSCORERS tend to be a self-centred, slightly greedy breed; characteristics as important in their proper context as a steady hand to a dentist. Strikers feed on goals, their talk is of scoring and great moments of despair for opposing defenders.

Finding a striker who scored seven times in eight League games is rare. Finding a man with such a track record who prefers to discuss his defensive duties for the side is almost unique. David Cross is such a man.

As West Ham sit proudly near the top of the First Division David Cross contemplated a remarkable last few months. The Londoners clinched the Second Division title at Grimsby in April, with Cross scoring four goals that day. He finished the season with 27 goals.

At Tottenham on the first Wednesday of the season, Cross scored four more in West Ham's emphatic 4-0 win. Yet the former Rochdale, West Brom, Coventry and Norwich striker was more impressed by his defensive contribution.

Pressurise

"For an hour, I did nothing in that match apart from run up and down the flank, marking Steve Perryman and prevent him getting forward to pressurise our defence. The fact that Tottenham didn't have that extra man coming through helped us survive at the back and wear them down. We got the goals after that, but my defensive contribution was just as important."

That philosophy was bred in the young David Cross by Ron Saunders, when the pair were together at Norwich ten years ago. "Ron used to say then, you all attack when you have the ball, and you all defend when you lose it. I suppose that is still as true today.

"A lot of people talked about total football in 1974 and 1978, and that was what they meant by it; everybody having the ability to do every job on the field."

Cross' ability to analyse his role and think about the contribution manager John Lyall wants from his chief striker helps him immensely. "I am there to score goals; that is my job, first and foremost," he says. "But there are other parts to my game. Off the ball running is another factor; shutting down defenders when they are looking to get forward and attack our own defence is another."

For a player whose goals provided much of the impetus for West Ham's surge to the Second Division title last season, Cross is surprisingly reticent about future prospects. "I don't get over elated, even by scoring four times at Tottenham. It is the knowledge that I have got a good base from which I can attack the season — that's the greatest factor.

"But I lose confidence quickly if I'm not scoring goals. I start wondering what I might be doing wrong.

'Creative'

"The fact that I have scored plenty of goals recently is attributable to other people. If the balls get delivered into the box, I believe I will score. But I am part of a side which is attack conscious and that makes a big difference. The creative ability of players like Devonshire, Pike, Allen, Brooking and so many others means opportunities for the front men.

"It's my job to convert the chances, just as it's Phil Parkes' job to save goals. But my role is no more important than his — both he and I are dependent, to a certain extent, on our colleagues.

"The defence can make Phil's job easier, just as the midfield can help me in my job. But just because my name appears on the scoresheet that doesn't mean it's all down to me. Far from it."

Cross appreciates the contributions of team-mates like Geoff Pike.

Super Focus

FULL NAME: David Anthony O'Leary
BIRTHPLACE: London
BIRTHDATE: May 2, 1958
HEIGHT: 6ft 2ins
WEIGHT: 13st 2lbs
MARRIED: No
CAR: BMW
PREVIOUS CLUBS: None
JOB OR TRADE BEFORE TURNING PRO: Joined Arsenal straight from school
NICKNAME: Spider
FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER: Sunday Observer
FAVOURITE PLAYERS: Franz Beckenbauer, Pat Jennings
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAMS: Manchester United, Liverpool
FOOTBALL HEROES OF CHILDHOOD: George Best, Franz Beckenbauer, Bobby Moore
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Golf, tennis
OTHER SPORTS STARS YOU MOST ADMIRE: Jack Nicklaus, Bjorn Borg
YOUR BEST EVER ALL-TIME XI: Jennings, Carlos Alberto, Beckenbauer, Krol, Breitner, Bobby Charlton, Giles, Gerson, Best, Pele, Cruyff
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: Winning the F.A. Cup in 1979
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Losing in a Final
FRIENDLIEST AWAY FANS: I have been treated well at most grounds — Man. Utd, Spurs, Liverpool
BEST STADIUM PLAYED IN: Wembley


Jack Nicklaus

FAVOURITE FOOD AND DRINK: Steak and chips, tea
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES . . .
DISLIKES: Playing well, being happy . . . Being injured
FAVOURITE SINGERS: Neil Diamond, Diana Ross, Stevie Wonder
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Clint Eastwood and Marti Caine
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Vancouver and Hawaii
FAVOURITE TV SHOW: Too many
BEST FILM SEEN RECENTLY: For Your Eyes Only
FAVOURITE ACTIVITY ON DAY OFF: Just relaxing
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: Arsenal FC and my family
SUPERSTITIONS: Like to get changed about an hour before kick off
PRE-MATCH MEAL: Tea, toast, scrambled eggs, cornflakes
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: Republic of Ireland schoolboy, youth and full honours
PERSONAL AMBITION: To win everything in the game and have a happy life
IF NOT A PLAYER, WHAT JOB WOULD YOU DO? Airline pilot
CAREER AFTER PLAYING: No idea
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? The Pope


Diana Ross

DAVID O'LEARY
ARSENAL


O'Leary shuts out Man. Utd's Steve Coppell during the 1979 F.A. Cup Final.